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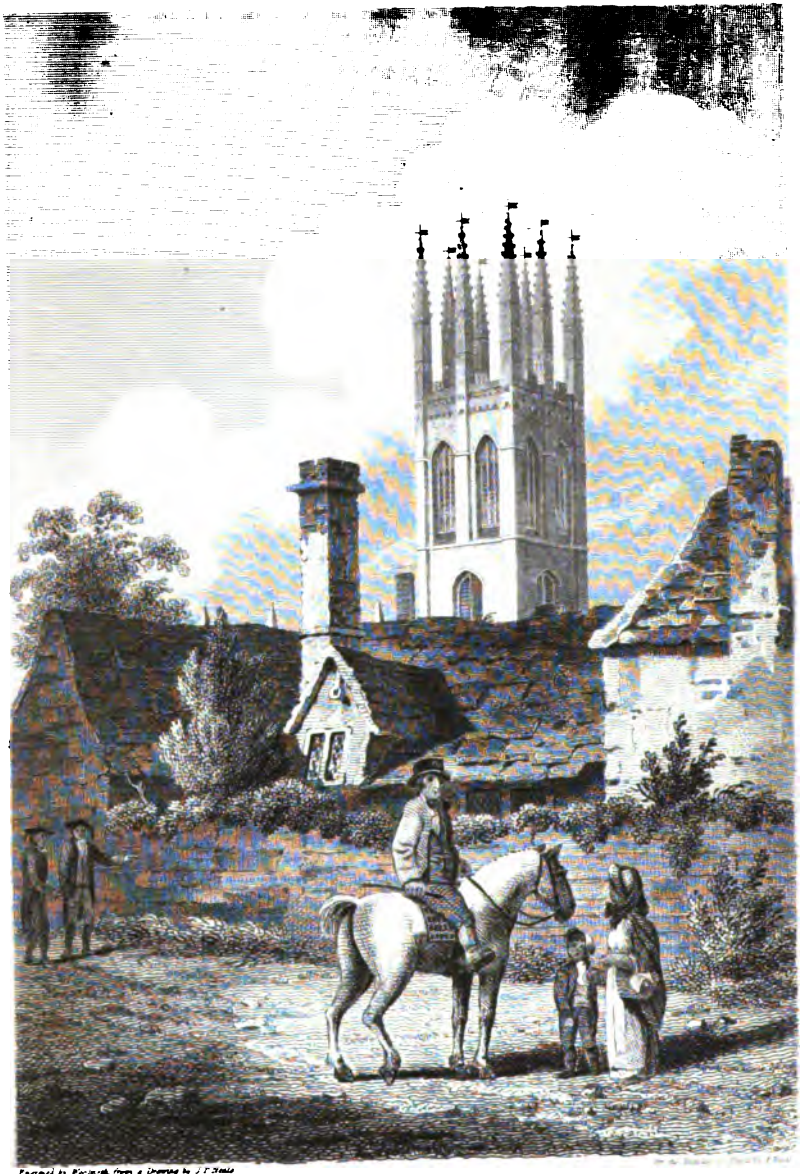

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THE

Beauties

of

ENGLAND AND WALES;

OR

DELINEATIONS

TOPOGRAPHICAL, HISTORICAL

and

DESCRIPTIVE.

Vol. XII, Part II.

Oxford.

London, Published by John Harris, St. Paul's Church Yard, July 1, 1819.

THE

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England and Wales:

OR,

ORIGINAL DELINEATIONS,

TOPOGRAPHICAL, HISTORICAL, AND DESCRIPTIVE,

OF

EACH COUNTY.

EMBELLISHED WITH ENGRAVINGS.

BY J. N. BREWER.

ASTOR LIBRARY NEW-YORK

VOL. XII.—PART II.

Hail, Albion, native country! See, how changed
Thy once grim aspect! how adorn'd and gay
Thy howling forests, where together ranged
The naked hunter and his savage prey! WEST.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR J. HARRIS; LONGMAN AND CO.; J. WALKER; R. BALDWIN; SHERWOOD AND CO.; J. AND J. CUNDEE; E. AND R. CROSBY AND CO.; J. CUTHELL; J. AND J. RICHARDSON; CADELL AND DAVIES; C. AND J. RIVINGTON; AND G. COWIE AND CO.

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TO

JOHN ATKYNS WRIGHT,

OF CROWSLEY PARK, IN THE COUNTY OF OXFORD, ESQUIRE,

One of the Representatives in Parliament for the

CITY OF OXFORD,

THESE HISTORICAL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL DELINEATIONS

IN OXFORDSHIRE,

ARE INSCRIBED,

AS A SMALL TRIBUTE OF RESPECT

FOR HIS PUBLIC CONDUCT, AND PRIVATE VIRTUES,

BY HIS OBEDIENT,

AND VERY HUMBLE SERVANT,

J. N. BREWER.

Kennington, Surrey,
Sept. 1*st*, 1813.

PREFATORY REMARKS.

I SUBMIT to the Public this attempt towards a Topographical Account of Oxfordshire, with the diffidence that may be supposed likely to arise from an endeavour to delineate a county rendered of prominent interest by a distinguished University; and a county *which has not been favoured with the labours of a regular historian.* Without the appearance of any undue assumption, I trust I may be permitted to say that I have used some exertions, connected with industry of research, to render the Work not unsatisfactory. By repeated journeys of investigation; by public advertisement; and by the inspection of papers deposited in various libraries, I have endeavoured to obtain all desirable, original, information concerning the subjects which required notice.

In

In every circumstance of investigation I have been seconded by the liberality and zeal of those to whom I had occasion to apply. The attention with which I was honoured by many Members of the University is calculated to impress fresh, and indelible, sentiments of respect on my mind towards that learned body. I have great pleasure in observing that at the Bodleian Library I found a constant wish to advance the object of my pursuit. The resident clergy of the county are entitled to my best thanks. Among the gentlemen to whom I am under particular obligations, I take pride in mentioning:

THE REV. DR. MAVOR.
..... E. G. WALFORD, Chaplain to the Earl of Guilford, &c.
..... J. FRANCIS.
..... W. WOOLSTON.
..... A. E. HOWMAN.
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THE REV. T. ELLIS.
..... C. WINSTANLEY.
THOMAS HALL, Esq Harpsden Court.
RICHARD DAVIS, Esq. Grove Cottage, (Topographer to his Majesty, &c.)
Mr. R. P. CULHAM, Henley.
.... JOHN HOLLIER, Thame.
.... J. BADCOCK, Watlington.

I beg, likewise, to take the freedom of thus publickly thanking the Earl of Ormond and Ossory for his very polite behaviour on my examination of *Ditchley*.

I cannot

I cannot quit the pleasing subject of acknowledgment, without remarking that I derived assistance, in my notice of the University, from the fund of materials collected with so much judgment by Mr. Chalmers, in his extensive Historical Work concerning the different Colleges, &c.

J. N. BREWER.

THE

BEAUTIES

OF

England and Wales.

OXFORDSHIRE.

THAT division of England which derives its name as a county, from the city of Oxford, (a spot so illustrious in the annals of learning, so venerable in those of religion,) is bounded on the east by Buckinghamshire, and on the west by the county of Gloucester; on the south, south-west, and south-east, its limits unite with those of Berkshire; the river Charwell separates Oxford from Northamptonshire on the north-east; while the county of Warwick lies contiguous on the north-west. Oxfordshire is of a very irregular figure: near the centre of the county, at the city of Oxford, it is not more than seven miles across; and yet in the more northern part, at no great distance, its diameter is thirty-eight miles. Proceeding northward it assumes the resemblance of a cone, and terminates at what is called the Three Shire Stone, in a complete point or apex. The part south of Oxford is likewise disproportionately narrow, when compared with the chief central districts of the county. At no point south of the city is Oxfordshire above twelve miles in width. Its greatest length is fifty miles.

This county is divided into fourteen hundreds, and contains one city, twelve market towns,* and 207 townships or parishes. According to a topographical survey made by Davis, there are about 450,000 acres of land in the county, 309,000 of which lie to the north of Oxford, and 141,000 to the south; but in the table of poor's rates, drawn under the inspection of the Right Hon. George Rose, the total number is stated to be 474,880 acres. The number of houses, inhabited and uninhabited, at the time of the return for 1801, was 21,193, and the population 109,620. The area of the county appears to be 742 square statute miles, consequently the number of inhabitants in each square mile averaged at 148 persons.

When the Romans entered Britain under Aulus Plautius, by command of the Emperor Claudius, a great portion of the districts now denominated Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire, was inhabited by a race of aboriginal Britons termed *Dobuni*. That the Dobuni only possessed *a part* of the present county of Gloucester has been already shewn;† and from the authority then quoted, (that of Dr. Whitaker,) it is evident that they prevailed chiefly in the low valleys of Oxfordshire on the north side of the Thames, and the country bordering on the whole length of the river

* Gough, following Mag. Brit. IV. 209. says that there are fifteen market-towns. It may be proper to observe, that Domesday Book mentions only *five hundreds* and a *half*, by name, in Oxfordshire, viz.

Levecanole	(Lewknor.)
Peritone	(Pirton.)
Primo Gadre	(———)
Secundo Gadre	(———)
Dorchestre	(Dorchester.)
And the Half Hundred of Besintone	(Bensington.)

But it appears, in *Terra Regis*, that the soke of four hundreds and a half belonged to Besintone; of two hundreds to Hedintone, (Headington;) of two hundreds and a half to Cherielintone, (qu. Chadlington;) of three hundreds to Optone; of three hundreds to Sciptone, (Shipton;) of two hundreds to Bentone: and of two hundreds to Blochesham, (Bloxham;) and Edburgberie.—See Bawdwen's Translation of Domesday, &c.

† Beauties, &c article Gloucestershire, p. 497.

river *Thame*. On the north-western and northern sides of the county their possessions were bounded by the chain of hills which extends in those directions. On the east their sway was limited by that natural barrier which rises, in irregular form, on the Buckinghamshire side of the Thame. The propriety of thus circumscribing the territory of the Dobuni would appear evident from the meaning of the word which distinguished their tribe. "The name Dobuni," says Camden, "seems to be derived from Duffen, (Dwfn) a British word, signifying deep or low; because, inhabiting for the most part a plain, and valleys encompassed with hills, the whole people took their denomination from thence." But an explanation more immediately relative may, perhaps, be received. The word *Dob* is observed, in a late ingenious Treatise, to mean stream; and, in the same work, *en*, land, is shewn to have been often varied to *an* and *un*. Thus the compound term Dobuni may be inferred strictly to signify a race possessing lands on river sides, or a people who are stream-borderers.

HISTORICAL CIRCUMSTANCES SUBSEQUENT TO THE ROMAN INVASION.

That the Dobuni were not very numerous appears likely, from the event of their subjugation to their eastern neighbours the *Cattieuchlani*; for though this latter people are described as a warlike race, and certainly possessed territories in the three counties of Buckingham, Bedford, and Hertford, yet their main strength must necessarily have lain so remote from the tracts inhabited by the Dobuni, that if the nation had been numerous in men adequate to warfare, the ascendancy of the subjugators could hardly have been so complete as circumstances warrant our supposing to be the fact. The impolitic animosities and party jealousies which prevailed among the aboriginal Britons rendered a comparatively easy prey to the invaders a large portion of that warlike mass of people, which would have been unconquerable if united. When *Aulus Plautius*, the proprætor, entered Britain, by command of Claudius, in the year of the Christian era 13,

the Dobuni, instead of hastening to arms in the great cause of their native island, looked only to their party feelings as members of a tribe. They would consider no men as enemies but the race of Cattieuchlani. This temper well suited the views of the proprætor: he took them immediately under his protection, and placed a garrison in a strong hold, for the ostensible purpose of shielding them from the attack of their encroaching neighbours. Thus did the original inhabitants of this district surrender themselves votive tributaries to a foreign power;* and yet so inefficient to the proposed task were the forces under Plautius, that when he met with a slight check on advancing nearer to the mouth of the Thames, he "feared the worst," and sent, as had been concerted, if much difficulty should occur, to the emperor Claudius, who directly sailed in person for Britain with reinforcements.

Throughout the whole period of the Roman sway we find the Dobuni to have remained quiet in contented servility. They were probably received with additional readiness by the conqueror as tributary friends, on account of their not having formed one of the British nations who opposed Julius Cæsar on his first landing. Cogidunus was at this time prince of the Dobuni; and he was not only permitted to remain in the nominal government of his territories, but appears to have had some other states placed under his authority. While it is painful to think that the inhabitants and original possessors of such fertile districts as those bordering on the great streams of the two counties of Oxford and Gloucester, should not have lifted a single weapon against the invader, who took tribute from the best treasures of their soil, and recruited his distant armies with the flower of their youth, we should not forget that the River-Borderers merely exchanged one

* The expedition, headed by Plautius, was undertaken at the suggestion of a Briton named Bericus, who had been driven from his country by factious intrigues, and had fled to Rome. From the immediate alliance which took place between the Romans and the Dobuni, it has been conjectured by many writers that this Bericus was, himself, of the latter nation or tribe.

one walk of slavery for another; and it likewise appears fair to conclude, that from their ready amalgamation with the followers of the Roman Eagle, they made more rapid advances in civilization than the tribes so severely boisterous, who looked on the arts of the invader with disdain, and replied to his blandishments with the edge of the sword. The whole territories of the Dobuni were comprehended in the Roman province Britannia Prima.

When the Romans, finally retiring from the British islands, left them open to the assaults of every neighbouring piratical tribe, the Dobuni, doubtless, shared in the general distress, although, from the island character of the district which they inhabited, they were, possibly, one of the last nations to feel the scourge of the invader. But at length there seems reason to conclude that internal dissensions, joining their baneful influence with that of various foreign enemies, drained the fair meads of the Dobuni of their flocks and herds, while the wretched remnant of the original inhabitants, who escaped the edge of the sword, were compelled to search the woods for food, and, returning to the rudeness of the first stage of society, were fain to support a miserable existence by the spoils of the chace. When the harassed country revived from this prostration of spirit, and a renewal of industrious habits produced comparative plenty, the dread of an invasion from the Scots and Picts caused the Britons, in a luckless hour, to invite the Saxons to a defence of their southern territories, and in this invitation the reigning prince of the Dobuni appears to have concurred.

It was not until the latter part of the sixth century that the Dobuni became entirely tributary to the Saxons. Numerous hordes then landed on the eastern coast of Britain, and prosecuted their hostile undertaking with so much success, that they speedily founded three kingdoms of the heptarchy. Of these new dominions the Dobuni formed a part, and were allotted to the portion denominated Mercia, which comprehended all the middle counties of England to the east of the Severn, and the south of

Yorkshire and Lancashire. The first sovereign began his reign in the year 585. It is not desirable to pursue the history of Oxfordshire, as a part of Mercia, through the boisterous periods of the heptarchy; but it seems proper to remind the reader that the Mercians proved one of the bravest of the seven kingdoms; and thus it is evident that the aboriginal inhabitants (the chief part of whose youth were employed in the field by their Saxon ruler,) possessed a ready disposition for feats of hardihood, when they were duly trained to military exertion. When Egbert reduced the whole heptarchy to one kingdom in 827, he considered the Mercians so formidable a people, that he suffered them to remain beneath the peculiar jurisdiction of their former sovereign; though, in point of political power, he took strong care that the nominal monarch should exist only as actual viceroy to himself. On the division of Mercia into five bishoprics, when the Saxons embraced the Christian faith, the term Dobuni was utterly buried under that of *Wiccii*, a word strictly descriptive of the former local circumstances of the people, if it be allowed to mean, as Camden suggests, a race dwelling on the "nooks and creeks of rivers."*

Towards the end of the ninth century a fresh enemy penetrated to the interior, and spread dismay and desolation over the Mercian districts. The *Danes* fixed their head quarters at Reading, and ravaged every part of Oxfordshire north of the Thames. On this occasion it does not appear that any opposition was offered by the Wiccii; and the government of the country which they inhabited was delegated, with other parts of Mercia, to a nobleman, who had been so weak and disloyal as to secede from his allegiance to the patriotical King Alfred. During the long contests which subsequently took place between the Saxons and Danes, Oxfordshire was often the seat of warfare. Several battles of consequence were fought in the county; and the city of Oxford was four times completely reduced to ashes. So disastrously

* For different opinions concerning the etymology of the term Wiccii, the reader is referred to the Beauties, &c. for Gloucestershire, p. 500.

tronsly great was the ascendant of the fresh invader in Mercia, that the whole district is described as being, at the commencement of the eleventh century, principally inhabited by Danes.*

But, although Oxfordshire presents little satisfactory to the English reader in regard to its military aspect, during those periods in which the armies of two great foreign powers struggled for mastery, it must be ever remembered that learning received nurture in this eminent county, even amid scenes of bloodshed and devastation. Under the patronage of the great Alfred the university of Oxford took firm root, and progressively advanced, in contempt of many discouraging circumstances, until it became, to use the words of Camden, a spot whence "religion, learning, and good manners, are happily diffused through the whole kingdom."

The dreadful war of the Roses, which stained so many districts with native blood, proved fatal to several of the nobility and gentry connected with Oxfordshire, among whom none suffered more severely than the august family which derived a title from the county; but, fortunately, those vales and plains, which were so often the scenes of slaughter in earlier periods, now remained free from the destructive ravages of both the great parties engaged in unnatural contests. In only one instance did either the Yorkists or Lancastrians enter Oxfordshire in arms. In the year 1469 an army of 15,000 men, composed chiefly of the farmers and common people of Yorkshire, proceeded so far south as the neighbourhood of Banbury. At this time Edward IV. sat on the throne, and he sent the Earls of Pembroke and Devon to oppose the "rebels." The two earls quarrelled at Banbury, and the latter withdrew his forces; but Pembroke encountered the insurgents on a level extent of ground called Danesmore, on the border of Oxfordshire, where he was defeated and lost his life.

When the unhappy war took place in the seventeenth century between King Charles and a part of his people, Oxfordshire was

* Chron. Saxon. p. 149

not so favored as to escape the visitation of the sword. The inhabitants of the county do not appear to have entered, with senseless enthusiasm, into the views of either party; but it was their calamity to feel the rod of war without having toiled for the evil harvest of its thorns. The contending armies traversed the county from one extremity to the other; and, whatever might be the banner under which these armies fought, their exactions and devastations were almost equally injurious, as far as regarded the great bulk of the inhabitants. During the vicissitudes of this melancholy struggle the city of Oxford was reduced by the sectarian army, and the town of Banbury was wrested from his fanatical opponents by the king, who retained possession until he retired to Scotland. Several intrenchments remain in different parts of the county as memorials of one of the most disgraceful civil contests, in which the fever of half-enlightened intellect ever plunged a great nation.

ROMAN ANTIQUITIES.

The continued amity (if such a term may be bestowed on the connexion between the conqueror and the tributary,) which prevailed among the Romans and the Dobuni, prevents our meeting in Oxfordshire with many important relics of Roman military construction. At Alchester, or Aldchester, on the eastern part of the county, and bordering on the former possessions of the Cattieuchlani, there was certainly a Roman station, the remains of which are of a square form, with a ditch and bank facing the four cardinal points. At Dorchester, situate on the south-west, and adjacent to the country of the Attrebatii, it is probable, likewise, that the Romans fixed a station, although the circumstances in evidence are by no means so clear as in the former instance. The situation is such as to render the conjecture highly plausible; and it is well known that the word *Cestre*, or *Chester*, with a significant adjunct, was generally used by the Saxons to express a place erected on the site or remains of a Roman fortification. That the Romans formerly resided here in considerable strength

strength would seem to be evident, from the great number of their coins which have been found in the neighbourhood. Besides these principal stations, there are the remains of several intrenchments, which, from their form, and from the coins found near them, may be confidently pronounced Roman, though their dimensions are so small, that it is evident they could only have been used as posts of observation, or as occasional resorts of security for detached bands of military while halting during a march through this part of the island.

Various *coins* and *relics* of *Roman pavement* have been discovered at different periods in almost every division; and at least one instance occurs of the invaders having profited by the peaceable inclinations of the Dobuni in regard to the construction of those country villas of which they were nationally so fond. At Steeple-Aston, on the north-east part of the county, there was turned up by the plough a pavement consisting of oblong squares, set perpendicularly to the horizon. That this pavement was Roman appears unquestionable;* and the situation in which it was discovered is so entirely unconnected with any known Roman road, that it can scarcely be supposed the mere footway of a general's tent, although it is probable that the building in which it was constructed was not of a very durable description.†

In addition to these military and domestic vestiges of the Romans, may be noticed several *funereal mounds*, formed from the rude grassy squares of turf which the Roman soldiers were accustomed

* Plot's Natural History of Oxfordshire, p. 327.

† It is known that the Roman generals were accustomed to have a considerable quantity of those dice-like pieces of tile of which their tessellated pavements were composed, carried in their baggage, for the purpose of forming a flooring where the prætorium, or general's tent, was fixed; but, as the pavement in question was found on a spot remote from either station or highway, it appears likely (as is partly conjectured by Dr. Plot,) that some refined Roman took benefit of the urbane disposition of the Dobuni, and gratified his love of pictorial scenery and rural habits, by erecting a summer-retreat in this secluded part of the country.

tomed to throw over the ashes of any eminent warrior, in order to prevent that contumelious scattering of his remains which they apprehended from barbarous tribes. The most remarkable of these, in the opinion of Dr. Plot,* is that termed Astal Barrow, which borders on the old Akeman-street, and which he conjectures to be the sepulchre of some eminent leader, on account of its unusual height and circumference. From the succeeding pages it will be found that the former neighbourhood of the Romans has been ascertained in almost every part of Oxfordshire, by the numerous urns and relics of funeral ceremony which have been dug up in different ages.

But the most pleasing vestige of the ancient "rulers of the world," is discoverable in the *roads* which they constructed; in contempt of treacherous moor or forbidding acclivity. No task could be too vast for their spirit of enterprize, or too mighty for their industry; and, in surveying these proofs of their judgment and laborious habits still partially preserved in this district, it is assuredly grateful to recollect that no intention of local warfare appears to have lent aid to the foundation of the object which we contemplate.

Only one of those four consular, or prætorian ways, which were constructed from sea to sea, two in length and two in breadth, of the whole island, passed through Oxfordshire, and that was the *Ikeneild-street*, which stretched itself, in regard to this county, from north-east to south-west. As this highway was not formed by casting up a paved ridge, or laid out by deep trenches, (as was often the usage of the Romans, both in regard to their major and minor roads,) it is less distinguishable than many; yet its track through the county may be pretty accurately developed, except as to the point at which it quitted Oxfordshire on the south-west, a circumstance of failure which has occasioned some difficulty to the decision of recent antiquaries. It may, however, be received as correct, that the Ikeneild way enters the county at the parish of Chinnor; thence proceeding at the base

* Nat. Hist. p. 325.

base of the Chiltern hills, it leaves Lewknor,* Shirburn, and Watlington, to the north-west. In the neighbourhood of Woodhouse-Farm it crosses the vallum, or ridged bank, called Grimes's Dyke, and, passing Ipsden, may be traced to an enclosure at the back of Grove Barn, about three miles distant from the village of Goring; after which no actual traces can be easily discovered; but Dr. Plot confidently affirms that it quitted Oxfordshire at the last-mentioned village; and, assuredly, the name of the hamlet immediately on the opposite bank (Streatley)† would appear to bestow plausibility on the conclusion. It is observable that this great road, in its whole course through the country, does not enter any town or village, unless it may be supposed to have so done at Goring, on finally leaving Oxfordshire; for which reason, according to Plot,‡ it was formerly "much used by stealers of cattle." The same writer observes, that the probable cause of the Romans not raising this road may be found in the circumstances of its situation, its course being uniformly on the firm fast soil afforded by the Chiltern elevations.

Of those *vicinal ways* which ran from one colony to another, or from station to station, the principal in Oxfordshire is the *Akeman-street*, which appears to have been constructed in different parts of the county, either with or without a raised bank, as the nature of the soil, through which it passed in its progress,

* At the foot of Stoken-Church hills there are, in the vicinage of Lewknor and Aston Rowant, two roads, called the Upper and the Lower Ikeneild ways. It was usual with the Roman officers to employ their men, during peaceful seasons, in striking out such near cuts as might shorten the highway tracks through the island. A circumstance of explanation, which, it is presumed, amply accounts for the double passage in the above district.

† After passing through Streatley, a road has been asserted by some to proceed in a direct line up the hills, pointing towards Silchester. It is traditionally recorded in the neighbourhood, that a Roman "mile stone" is still remaining among the thick underwood in that direction. For this the present writer searched with some industry; but it was well that he did not indulge much hope of success, for no such memorial was to be found.

‡ *Nat. Hist*, 316.

progress, demanded. This road enters Oxfordshire from the neighbouring county of Buckingham, in the parish of Ambrosden. After ascending to Blackthorn-hill, it crosses Wretchwick Green, and proceeds, a little to the north of Gravenel (or Gravenhill,) Wood, and Alchester, to Chesterton: thence it leads to Kirtlington; and, passing the town-end and crossing the river Charwell near Tackley, enters Blenheim park, which it quits in a direction for the village of Stonesfield. Here, altering its form, though still (even traditionally) retaining its name, it goes over the river Evenlode, and passes near Wilcot and Ramsden; then to Astally and Astal, and through the fields (though scarcely distinguishable) to Broadwell Grove. At Broadwell Grove the outlines are more bold and perfect, and the road then proceeds nearly in a straight line for Gloucestershire.

From the main channel of Akeman-street several minor roads diverged. Two of these are traced near Kirtlington. One at the town's-end, of no long continuance, but which points upon the portway running east of Northbrook and Souldern. The other appears, by its direction, to have branched from the parent street nearer to the spot at which it crosses the river Charwell. There is, likewise, an outlet from the main road at the part now inclosed in Blenheim park, which points north-west towards Enston and Chipping-Norton. In addition to these branches of Akeman-street, it must be observed, that a road crosses that street south of Bicester, and runs north and south through Alchester and Wendlebury meadow. It then goes over the dreary district termed Otmoor, where (as is observed by Plot) it has evidently been paved, passes Beckley park wall, and proceeds, to the left of Shotover-hill, for Sandford, where it crosses the Thames.

Between Mongewell and Nuffield is a vallum, or high-ridged way, termed *Grime's Dike*, or more familiarly in the neighbourhood, Grime's, or Devil's, Ditch. This embankment is still very high, though it is but single till it comes to the vicinity of Nuffield, where the banks are double, with a deep trench between. Dr. Plot conjectures that the part next Wallingford was

case, likewise, double banked, but that "the trench was filled up by one of the banks being thrown into it, upon the increase of agriculture. The trench, perhaps, was at first designed only to carry off the water, and the two banks on each side for the carriages which passed betwixt the stations." * The Ikeneild Street crosses this embankment, or dike, near Woodhouse Farm.

TRACES OF THE BRITISH, SAXONS, DANES, &c.

Several British coins of a very curious description have been found, and there are some barrows which may be safely described as relics of the aboriginals. Marks of the bloody contests between the Saxon and Danish strugglers for supremacy are distinguishable in many parts of the county. Among the common order of the natives these are indiscriminately called barrows; but military intrenchments are in fact quite as frequent as funereal mounds. The most curious piece of antiquity in the county is the circle of high stones, termed *Rowldrick*, in the neighbourhood of Chippingnorton. As this interesting monument has excited considerable difference of opinion, it is merely noticed here as the work of one or other of the early nations. When it comes under local examination the chief arguments advanced by each party will be adduced; and, after a statement of the result of our own observation, it will remain with the reader to decide on the age and nation to which it probably refers.

GENERAL FEATURES AND CHARACTER OF COUNTRY, SOIL, &c.

The county of Oxford possesses, in its southern districts, an alternation of hill and valley productive of many pleasing displays

* Plot. Nat. Hist. p. 317.—In the same page the doctor says, "From Tufield I was told that Grime's dike held on its course through the thick woods, and passed the river below Henley, into Berkshire again; but the woods scarce admitting a foot passage, much less for a horse, I could not conveniently trace it any further." With these woods the present writer is tolerably well acquainted, but he never was able to discover any certain marks of continuation in the track described by Dr. Plot.

plays of pictorial scenery. The Chiltern elevations, partly clothed with rich mantles of beech, and sometimes arable to a height supposed unattainable by the midland husbandry of the early ages, abound in variety and grace of scene. If Oxfordshire, in its central division, lose in a great measure that inequality of surface so prolific of beauty, it can boast of its forest and woods, fraught with national benefit, and displaying at every rude turn a captivating, though circumscribed, grandeur of prospect. On the north, (and particularly on the western part of that district) stone fences supply the place of the thick-set hedges, decorated with a profusion of wild flowers, which form the boundaries of other inclosures; and the eye is often fatigued by a rude and frigid monotony of scene. But the rivers which flow through the county are the chief sources of its beauty. These, gliding through almost every district, call forth luxuriant vegetation in a thousand smiling meadows, and regale the traveller with a continual and enchanting change of prospect, whether they stretch over fertile champaign, or break from woody insterstice.

The difference observable in natural feature is necessarily productive of some variety in *climate*. In general the air is supposed to be healthy and bracing. From a want of umbrageous fences the northern parts are chill for the greater part of the year, and unpleasantly warm in the summer months. It is remarked, that the frost always takes effect sooner, and lasts longer, on the chalky lands at the base of the Chiltern hills than in any other part of the neighbourhood; and, in tepid seasons, the climate of the Chiltern country is usually moist, since fogs are more frequent among the woods and hills than in the vale.

Oxfordshire contains three strongly marked distinctions of soil, which are thus classed by Mr. Young, in his Agricultural Survey:—the red-land, the stonebrash, and the chiltern. The red-land, consisting of 79,635 acres, is found in the northern division, and much exceeds the others in fertility. "It is deep, sound, friable, yet capable of tenacity, and adapted to every plant that can be trusted to it by the industry of the cultivators." The stonebrash

 prevails

prevails chiefly in the central division, and pervades no less than 164,023 acres. "The predominant feature of this extensive tract is a surface, of greater or less depth, of a loose, dry, friable sand, or loam, apparently formed of abraded stone (generally limestone,) and abounding with many fragments of it." There are 64,778 acres of chiltern lands, the basis of which is chalk, covered to various depths with loam, generally sound and dry. "The most distinguishing mark of the surface-loam is a very considerable quantity of flints, mostly brown, rough, crusty, and honey-combed, many to perforation, and many also with a sparry incrustation." The remainder of the county, combining 166,409 acres, can only be allotted to the term miscellaneous, and includes "all sorts of soil, from loose sand to heavy clay."

NATURAL PRODUCE, &c.

Where the surface is fertile in vegetation, and responds readily to the culture of the husbandman, it is vain to look for a metallic treasure within the bowels of the earth. Nature is uniformly too œconomical to allow mankind to hope for the attainment of such a double harvest. In the opinion of Dr. Plot there was formerly a silver mine worked in the chiltern part of the county; but this opinion is built on an hypothesis partaking more of ingenuity than cool deduction. Materials for building abound in almost every district. The quarries of free-stone are numerous; limestone is plentiful; and slate is found in several places. Dr. Plot discovered marl in three different quarters *, and the ochre of Shotover is accounted "the best of its kind in the world, being of a true yellow colour, and very weighty." † The clays in several parts near Oxford have formerly been used with some success by Potters; and medicinal springs are frequent, among which the various orders of chalybeate chiefly prevail. Many curious specimens of formed stones have been found. Of British plants growing in Oxfordshire, the number is about 1200, a very considerable part of

* Nat. Hist. p. 53. † Ibid. p. 55.

of which some under the class, or title, of *Cryptogamia*. The principal of these will be mentioned under the heads of the respective places at which they are met with.

The AGRICULTURE of this county has latterly made rapid strides in improvement, owing principally to the system of inclosure which has so much prevailed. When Dr. Plot, at the latter part of the 17th century, travelled through Oxfordshire he found the farmers unskilful, boorish, and sordid. Few circumstances of enquiry can be more pleasing than those which involve the progress of human intellect. In a great degree narrowness of idea seems now thrown aside with the old common-field system, and only a relic of that sordid race remains to gloat over the pseudo-freedom of a comparatively few unenclosed ranges. The land Dr. Plot describes as scantily manured, and injudiciously cropped. The fallows were frequent, and folding with sheep appears to have been only partially used. Turnips (though they had been for some years known in Norfolk) were not adopted. There was a great deal of seed sown per acre, and a very disproportionate quantity reaped. * Improvement must be supposed to

* The following statement, from Plot's Natural History, published in 1677, will convey some idea of the practice of Oxfordshire husbandmen in the 17th century. "The *Clays* they sow with wheat, and the next year after with beans, and then, plowing in the bean-brush at All Saints, the next year with barley; and then the fourth year it lies fallow, when they give it summer-tilth again, and sow it with winter corn as before. But, at most places where their land is cast into three fields, it lies fallow in course every third year. As for the *chalk land*, though it requires not to be laid in ridges in respect of dryness, yet of warmth it doth. When designed for wheat, *which is but seldom*, they give it the same tillage with clay, only laying it in four or six furrowed lands, and soiling it with the best mould, or dung, but half rotten, to keep it from binding, which are its most proper manures, and so for common barley and winter vetches, with which it is much more frequently sown, these being found the more suitable grains. The *red land*," (known by modern practice to be the best in the county) "like clay, bears wheat, miscellan, barley, and peas, in their order very well, and *lies fallow every other year* where it falls out of their hitching." The *stonebrash* land, likewise, "lies fallow every other

to work slowly with men habituated to ancient prejudices, by a want of extensive intercourse; but within the last forty years the frequency of inclosures has worked a change much more rapid than could be expected.

Where the soils are so various there necessarily cannot be any uniform course of husbandry. In the red-land district the following is the most approved *course* of *crops:* 1. Turnips.* 2. Barley, or spring wheat. 3. Clover. 4. Wheat. 5. Beans, or peas. 6. Oats. The general rotation on the stonebrash lands is: 1. Turnips. 2. Barley with clover, rye-grass, or trefoil, or mixed. 3. 4. Clover, &c. as above, either for one or two years, as the plant will continue. 5. Wheat, on once plowing. 6. Oats, peas, or beans. 7. In many places a part is continued on sainfoin till the plant is worn out. The Chiltern district has a near resemblance to that of stonebrash, in the circumstance of doing equally well for turnips, wheat, and sainfoin. On many of the hills they sow: 1. Turnips. 2. Barley. 3. Clover, or trefoil, and ray-grass; and, if to be kept three or four years, white clover is added. 4. Wheat, and those who are not so correct as others, add, 5. Oats, or barley, peas, or vetches.

Among the *crops only partially cultivated* may be noticed *Lentils*, of which pulse "there is a scattering, though not considerable." *Rape*, of which some is found on the rich red land, north of Banbury. One cultivator mixes rape with tankard turnips, for the use of his weaning lambs. *Cabbages*, planted only in a few instances. *Carrots*, which have been grown by several persons as food for horses. *Potatoes*, not grown on a large scale, though they appear to be advancing in estimation as an object of agriculture. *Chicory*, drilled in poor land for the feeding of cows, sheep, and pigs. *Burnet* has been tried by more than

other year, except where it falls among the peas quarter, and there, after peas, it is sown with barley, and lies fallow but once in four years."

* The rata-baga, or Swedish turnip, increases in reputation on every trial, and is to be seen in all parts of the county.

than one person, but did not answer expectation; and *Rhubarb* is grown near Drayton with some success. Dr. Plot remarks the frequency of *Hemp* in Oxfordshire; and, even within the last forty years, many cottages possessed a plantation; but now it is almost entirely banished from the county. *Flax*, formerly raised in large quantities, is now cultured only in one neighbourhood; and there it is raised on boggy land for the object of seed, which is used in fattening oxen. *Hops* are very rarely met with, and never in large quantities. Dr. Plot saw saffron growing in many places, but now it is utterly neglected.

TILLAGE, &c.

The ancient system revived of oxen for the purpose of tillage, instead of horses, is practised to a considerable extent; and, where no prejudice exists, with much success. In the vicinity of Burford almost every farmer uses oxen, and finds that they are capable of as much labour as horses, and cost much less in keeping. Of the different breeds the Herefordshire is preferred. The general practice of the county is to plow deep, which causes the farmers, without exception, to use either three or four horses in a plow-team (where oxen are not adopted); an extravagance very reprehensible in the opinion of the surveyor appointed by the Board of Agriculture; but, as that surveyor has chiefly experimented on the light soils of Suffolk, the Oxfordshire husbandmen do not seem inclined to receive his opinion as quite satisfactory. The practice of drilling is in its infancy in the county, but appears likely to become more general.

MISCELLANEOUS AGRICULTURAL REMARKS.

The advantage of paring and burning is almost generally acknowledged, in regard to fresh inclosures, especially where they run on furze-lands; and some farmers break up sainfoin and clover with this practice. Except on new land, burning is, how-

 ever,

ever, by no means commonly used. One remark of the agricultural surveyor on this subject is curious, and merits insertion: "They have, in various parts," (not in very many) "a practice which is, certainly, a very extraordinary one; that of paring stubbles as they pare grass, for burning. This is in order to cleanse from couch, &c.; but as the depth they cut is not more than an inch, or two at most, it is an extraordinary fact if it has the asserted effect of cleansing; yet, one would suppose that a farmer would not give fifteen shillings an acre (the price of the operation) if the effect did not answer." We are happy to be enabled to assert, that the effect *is* answerable to the intention. By this practice the ground is kept clean, injurious insects are destroyed, and much superfluous vegetable matter is converted into useful manure, while the staple of the soil is by no means affected. The *manures* chiefly used are those of the common sorts; dung, and composts consisting of mixens of dung, earth, the cleanings of ponds. &c.; and here it must be observed, that the refuse of the stable and sties is too frequently suffered to remain till quite rotten before it is put on the ground, a practice assuredly not to be defended by the arguments of theory, or the evidence of result. In this instance the ancient agriculturists appear to have had the advantage of their successors; for we find, from Dr. Plot, that the farmers of the 17th century gave a decided preference to long dung. To this retrograde course of opinion there are, however, many exceptions in the county. *Lime* has been sometimes tried on the red lands, and merits a more general adoption. *Gypsum* is only partially used, and the effect far from uniform.

MEADOWS, PASTURE-LAND, &c.

"The greatest glory of Oxfordshire," observes Gibson, in his Continuation of Camden," is the abundance of its meadows and pastures." This remark plainly shews the meagre state of agriculture at the period in which Bishop Gibson wrote. That the meadows and natural pastures are, at present, highly beneficial,

and that they "gloriously" adorn the county, by spreading a lovely and verdant carpet over its numerous recesses, are facts which we readily admit; but that they now form (in point of profitable resource) the great boast of the county cannot be so easily allowed. The hills, then matted with underwood, are now covered, even in their most calcareous districts, with sainfoin; and the flats which then lay fallow are periodically cropped with clover, with lucern, and the numerous tribes of succedaneous grasses. In consequence, the meadows have ceased to form a primary feature of county wealth; a position liable to objections, but which seems to be proved by their not having advanced in rent in a degree nearly equal with other lands. The meadow let for forty shillings per acre, half a century back, will not now produce more than three pounds. The arable land, then let for twelve shillings, will now find a ready occupier at the rate for each acre of twenty-four shillings.

The meadows on the borders of the Thames and the Charwell are naturally rich, though very subject to injury from floods, against which no precautions have been taken *; and the effect, superadded to the damage often caused at hay-time, is the introduction of numberless coarse aquatic plants, destructive of delicacy of herbage, and frequently injurious in some measure to the cattle which feed on them. Where these meadows are in allotments they are generally mown once, and then fed. The produce

* "There is a variety of opinions as to whether the improvement is greater from foul or clear water, yet the most probable opinion is, that it is the spirit which the land imbibes from the water that brings on a fermentation, and promotes vegetation; and, therefore, when the water has become foul by running over poor soils, that spirit is, in some measure, gone, unless in the case of its having passed over lands which have been manured, and bringing with it a certain portion of such manures, which settles and remains on the land. But, where the current is less rapid, and the water becomes more stagnant, the greatest injury takes place; and, therefore, the embanking of this kind of meadow-land, so that the water might be admitted, or kept out at pleasure, would be a very great improvement."

Davis. Original Report, &c.

dace of hay, per acre, may nearly average at two tons. The bulk of inclosed meadow, or pasture-land, is found in the central parts of the county; and there much benefit is derived from under-draining *, an operation that is performed with stone when the land lies in the neighbourhood of a quarry. The best grass-land in the county is asserted by Mr. Young to be that in the neighbourhood of Water-Eaton. But Oxfordshire abounds with fine meadow; nor is this abundance confined to the vicinage of the Thames and Charwell. The county is watered by not less than seventy streams, and the banks of each are attractively fertile. We may, therefore, well suppose that, originally, pasture-lands were its chief glory, though now they are confined in extent and consequence, when compared with the portion over which the plow passes.

The dairy system is chiefly prevalent, though little cheese is

 made

* On the subject of draining, Mr. Wagstaffe of Banbury, in a MS. annotation on the Agricultural Report, observes: "Draining alone will weaken, and may destroy, the weeds injurious to meadow-herbage, but a short and certain cure of perennial weeds is by the spade or plow, first premising that the ditches should be cleansed, a crop of hay then taken off, and the aftermath fed for a time. No doubt but the land is now well drained, perhaps the ditches are dry, and the plows can then traverse to their edges; and where the plow cannot safely go the spade more effectually answers, as on the edges of ditches, and unopened rivulets, where the meadow-sweet, the rue, and willow-herbs, predominate. The spade or the plow may thus eradicate the encumberers of the ground for ages past. Perhaps, a second, or cross plowing, may be practised before the late autumnal rain prevents that operation. In fine, the turned-up soil may be harrowed up once, twice, or thrice, by the middle of April. I tried this experiment with two portions of low meadow, that were not only subject to the winter floods, but on which water rested during the spring months. A graduated channel to an adjoining run of water drained much of the water away; but still injurious weeds domineered over the scanty grass that grew. I opened ditches, plowed them as I have proposed, and laid potatoes in sets on the harrowed surface, with a small portion of rotten dung on each set. It must be obvious, that the greatest part of these grew where weeds prevailed before; and there is no doubt with me but that many Oxfordshire meadows might be thus reclaimed."

made for sale. The long-horned breed of cows is usually preferred, but the pastoral poet would search in vain for a "milk-maid" throughout the county, as the office of "drawing their simple treasure from the kine" is uniformly allotted to the men, or lads, attached to the respective farms.

There is no watered meadow in Oxfordshire, though many parts are extremely well adapted to it. This circumstance arises, in a great measure, from a legal decision made in the county, importing, "that a proprietor has no right to effect any operation on his own property that may tend to lessen the quantity of water, if there be any mills below him." A doctrine which, according to Mr. Young, "may be good in law, but is horrible in politics: wind and steam will grind corn; and, therefore, a water-mill has little pretensions to utility; and, if it impedes irrigation, is a nuisance."

The culture of *artificial grasses* is well understood in this county. Sainfoin is grown to a large extent*; and is, indeed, to be found on every appropriate soil nearly in all the districts. The land is prepared for this plant by turnips, and sheep are carefully kept from it in the first stages of its growth. Peat, or coal ashes, are annually applied, but dung is found injurious, by producing weeds. From three to four bushels of seed are originally sown per acre; and, in general, a small additional quantity of seed is thrown on every year. The average produce may, probably, be placed at about a ton and a half for every acre. When sainfoin was new to the land it would last for fifteen, and, as some assert, for twenty years. Now that it is familiar with the soil, five, or at most seven years, are usually the extent of its duration. *Lucern* is only partially cultivated; but, on the stone-brash land, when regularly manured, it has been mown three times a year, and been found to yield a great burthen. There is not any of this plant to be seen in the country south of Oxford. The Oxfordshire farmers well know the value of *clover*, and they rear

* In the neighbourhood of Burford one-seventh of the arable land is under sainfoin; a proportion, perhaps, not to be met with in any other county.

rear crops productive, on the average, of one ton and a half per acre; but, in this county, as in others, clover is found to cloy the ground on too frequent a repetition. It then dies away in winter and spring, and the land is emphatically said to be *sick of it*. Trefoil is considered valuable, but ray-grass, (especially if without a mixture of cocksfoot,) is held in little esteem.

When Dr. Plot traversed this county the IMPLEMENTS used in husbandry were few indeed. Respecting the ploughs he says *, "there are two sorts used in Oxfordshire, the *foot* and *wheel* plough, whereof the first is used in deep and clay lands, being accordingly fitted with a *broad fin share*, and the horses going always in a string to avoid *poching* the land; and the second in the lighter and stony land, the horses either going in a string, or two a-breast, according as thought most suitable to the tillage in hand. This plough, when used in stony land, is armed with a round pointed share, having also, near the *chep* of the plough, a small fin to cut the roots of the grass, for in this land the broad fin jumps out of the ground. The *foot*-plough does best at the henting, or ending, of a land; whereas the *wheel-plough*, if care and discretion do not meet in the holder, is apt to overthrow there, the land being ridged; but goes much more lightsome and easy for the horses than the foot-plough doth." Besides the ploughs, the common harrow, the beetle, (for breaking the clumps,) and the common roller, he notices only the following implements: "A roller cut neither smooth, nor to angles, but notched deep, and pretty broad, after the manner of a *tessela*, or *lattice*, so that the protuberant parts remained almost as big as the foot of a horse, by which, being large and weighty, the cultivator could so firmly press the light land as to settle the corn, which, if the land had been left hollow, would inevitably have been *choaked by the weeds* to which the land was subject." Another roller, (which, however, he had not seen,) "set the whole length with plates of steel prominent from the body of the roll about an inch and a half; thus contrived for the quicker cutting

* Nat. Hist. 247.

of turf which, drawn first one way, and cross again at right angles, cuts the turf into squares." And "a great, weighty, triangular harrow, whose tines stood not in rows after the manner of others, its use being in ground much subject to *quitch-grass*, whose roots, it seems, continually passing between the tines of other harrows, are not so easily dragged forth by them as this, whose tines stand not in rows, and is drawn with one of the angles foremost, after the manner of a wedge." *

Modern Oxfordshire has been rather slow in receiving the novel implements constructed in neighbouring counties; but still the catalogue is highly satisfactory, when compared with that of the 17th century. "The ploughs most commonly used are those with two wheels, the beam resting on a pretty high fore carriage; or those with one wheel, the beam low: both having straight mould-boards, or but little varied." † The Wiltshire, the Glamorgan, and Gloucester ploughs have, likewise, been tried in several parts, with success proportioned to the varieties of soil; and several *revolving* ploughs have been invented, which, however fancifully constructed in the apprehension of common farmers, ought at least to pass the ordeal of deliberate experiment before they are despised. At Burford "a *cutting roller* has been manufactured, composed of twelve wheels, two inches and a half thick, and between them a space of two inches and a half. They are three feet diameter. The inventor loads them so as to be sufficient work for six oxen, and passes them over wheat after it is sown, or after it is up; and, if dry, cross and cross. In spring he has used it also upon wheat; it leaves the surface rough in diamonds, which he finds useful." ‡ Scarifiers and scufflers, so much esteemed in districts where a light friable loam predominates, are here very rare. The following opinion, forwarded to the

* These extracts prove the forlorn state of agriculture at the period. The ground, we find, was encumbered with a mass of weeds, and the implements in common use were quite insufficient to the purposes of cleaning, and duly pulverizing the land when hardened and bound by such frequent fallowings.

† Young. Agri. Sur. 76. ‡ Young, p. 78.

the agricultural surveyor, by a respectable individual, correctly expresses the sentiment prevailing in the county:—"the fashionable scarifiers and scufflers of London have been tried and exploded. Where the staple of the land is thin, and the sub-soil uncultivated, it must be by degrees only that it can be rendered fit for cultivation, and that by plowing occasionally deeper, and fertilizing the soil in the interim. The operation of the scuffler is to move the two sorts of soil before fertilization of the subsoil: and hence the lands so used become a crop of weeds." As the above named implements are, however, only of late introduction, it is very probable that the opinion of the county may alter, and then a future writer will be sanctioned in advancing quite as many arguments in their favour. Skim-coulters are used by some agriculturists, and seem to be rather approved when the land is not flinty. Threshing-mills are stated by Mr. Young to be frequent when he made his survey, and since that period they have spread with increased rapidity. Indeed, it seems likely that they will, in the course of a very few years, entirely supplant that rude and wasteful instrument the flail, on every farm of consequence. The horse-hoe is far from being in common use, though it is occasionally found in some districts *.

LEASES, RENT, TITHE, &c.

Leases, or agreements between the landlord and tenant for the latter to take the usufruct of the land for a stipulated term of years, and no longer, at a prescribed ratio of recompense, appear to have chiefly grown into custom within the last century. Previous to that period the landholders retained too much of the dignity

* Mr. Young, Agri. Sur. p. 75, says that "he could not find a horse-hoe in the county," which is a surprising circumstance, since his correspondent, Mr Lowndes of Brightwell Grove, assures him that the horse-hoe husbandry is well known in his neighbourhood. In the vicinage of Woodstock, of Witney, and in several of the south-western parts of Oxfordshire, he might also have met with the practice.

nity of chivalrous knighthood, to regard their tenants as any other than a relic of the villains of the feudal system; and with such a subordinate class they scorned to enter into any resemblance of an immutable, though just, compact. With the extension of commerce, and the improvement of agriculture, a new character of opinion took place. When the tenant found that an enlarged system of agricultural operation required an investment of capital, he, naturally, demanded a security for the deposit. This suggestion removed the honourable tie which had, for so many ages, caused the landlord to look on the husbandmen of his district as the natural children of his patrimony; and he immediately began to treat with them as man opposed to man, in a commercial point of view. Thus the tenant at first appeared to gain a benefit; but, when once the spirit of commercial calculation was introduced between himself and his lord, the ancient bond, involving humility on the one part, and dignified patronage on the other, was at an end. The land became a marketable commodity, and the terms on which a new bargain was procured must depend on the temperature of the national exchange. This alteration of principle has led to a dangerous predicament. The associating link of supremacy and deference once severed, the landlord wants to proceed a step farther. He wishes to possess tenants without a lease, yet tenants for whom he does not feel that paternal sentiment of patronage, cherished by his predecessors. The evils of this contingency are felt in most counties, but in none more than in Oxfordshire.

Some few individuals may be found who grant leases for fourteen, or even for twenty-one years; but, in general, seven years form the extent of the allotted term. "In the neighbourhood of Chippingnorton none are granted, or what are next to none. The longest is six years, prescribing the six crops; but, more commonly, nothing more than an agreement, voidable in many cases at six months' notice." * Many of the great landholders, in all parts of the county, will grant no lease whatever; and, in several districts,

* Young's Agri. Sur. p. 68.

districts, the tenant is happy to avail himself of a permission to cultivate with legal security the four crops usually successive on his land. This system of intended private aggrandizement assuredly operates prejudicially on the public weal. It is a common opinion in Oxfordshire, that land worth twenty shillings per annum without a lease would be worth thirty shillings if secured to the use of the cultivator for a term of twenty-one years. It is evident, that this increased value can only arise from the extra quantity of grain, or marketable food, produced by the practice of secure tillage. Every circumstance connected with agriculture moves in slow progress. The day must, undoubtedly, come when the Oxfordshire landlord and renter will perceive that the advancement of public benefit is a mutual accommodation to themselves.

The farms vary much in *size;* but, in general character, they are not so large as in most other parts of England. "The largest farms in the rich Thame District do not usually exceed 300 acres. About Stoken-ash there are none capable of maintaining more than 200, or 300, sheep. For some miles around Blenheim, farms are in general from 100 to 500 acres." * To this it may be added, that there are many farms in the Forest Division so small as not to pay more rent than twenty pounds per annum. It must be obvious, that it is very difficult, if not absolutely impossible, to form a just notion of the prevailing *rent* in a county. The price paid for the use of land depends much on many peculiar circumstances; among which the number of acres rented, and the existence or non-existence of a lease, hold the principal rank. Young conjectures the following to be the proportion of rents in 1807:—The red land thirty shillings, stone-brash twenty shillings, Chiltern sixteen shillings, and miscellaneous twenty-five shillings. According to this statement the average is 22s. 10d. per acre, and the whole rental of the county £43,297l. 1s. 6d. But it is probable that, since that period, rent has

* Young, p. 30.

has risen throughout the whole county at least in the proportion of one-fifth part. In the year 1768, the average rent of inclosed lands was supposed to be twenty shillings, and that of open fields nine shillings per acre.

The *tithe* of Oxfordshire is of various descriptions. "A few rectors have one in fifteen, and others one in twenty. This arose from varied endowments; half the tithe was settled on the rector, and the other half, perhaps, given to some religious house; and, on the suppression, came into lay-hands. That the tithes came from the land-owner appears from the manor-farm, and that only, being in so many cases tithe-free."* Tithe is seldom taken in kind, and the usual rate of composition for arable land fairly let may, perhaps, be stated at one-fourth of the rent.

PROGRESS OF INCLOSING, WASTES, &c.

Except the dreary district termed Otmoor, and the extensive wilds appertaining to the forest of Whichwood, the waste land of Oxfordshire is comparatively small. The common of Otmoor is situate near Islip, and contains about 4000 acres, the whole of which lie nearly on a level, and are completely inundated in wet seasons. Eight adjoining townships possess a right of commonage on this dismal tract; but, as this right is possessed *without stint*, the abuses are very great, and many cattle are placed there, to feed which really belong to persons who have no privilege to reap benefit from the waste. The soil of the common is a good loam, and if inclosed, drained, and duly managed, would undoubtedly prove highly amenable to the purposes of agriculture. The operation of draining might be effected with much ease; for though the moor appears level to the eye there is, really, a sufficient inequality of surface to cause the waters to draw down to one particular part; and the river Ray runs directly across it. The herbage, which shoots up, in seeming luxuriance, during the summer

* Agri. Sur. p. 40.

summer months, is rank, and not only very apt to rot sheep *, but is productive of a peculiar distemper among the larger cattle called in the neighbourhood the moor-evil. The cottager appears to reap the greatest benefit from Otmoor. He turns out little except geese; and the coarse, aquatic, sward of this waste is well suited to the wants and constitution of his flock. The disgusting effluvia arising from the weedy recesses of this large tract would seem likely to tend much towards the injury of human health; yet it does not appear that intermittents are nearly so frequent in the vicinage as might be apprehended. Some judicious individuals projected, a few years back, the inclosure of Otmoor; but the plan met with much local opposition, and was at length abandoned.

In the purlieus of Whichwood Forest there are extensive tracts of waste ground, the commonage of which is confined, by right, to horses and sheep; but the instances of illegal assumption are numerous, and cattle of almost every description may be seen nearly in every part. The soil of the forest is generally either the red loam, or the stonebrash so frequent in the county.

The other commons of Oxfordshire are chiefly to be found among the Chiltern hills, in districts which, though denuded, are too steep for the plough; and in the northern part of the county, where there are many ranges of Down-land appropriated to the pasturage of young cattle, or (in some few instances) to that of oxen used for the purpose of tillage.

The system of *inclosing* has been encouraged, as was before observed, to a considerable extent. The inclosures in the first forty years of his present majesty's reign amounted in number to forty-one, and in quantity of land to 68,480 acres †. Since which

* An instance is mentioned in Young's Agricultural Survey of one farmer who turned seventeen score of sheep to graze on this common, the whole of which he lost by the rot, except *three*. In the same work it is said that cattle benefit about twenty shillings per head (independent of the hazard of loss through disease) by a summer's pasturage.

† Young, p. 88.

which the instances of inclosure have been numerous. The advantages are unequivocal. The landlord has gained an increase of rent, nearly in the proportion of two to one. The food raised for man is considerably greater *, and the farmer has not only obtained an improvement of circumstances, but a capacity for good management, and a general enlargement of idea.

Oxfordshire does not possess much to interest the examiner, in the department of LIVE STOCK, as it has no peculiar breed of its own, and has not adopted any particular race with so much preference as to cause it to form a leading feature in the rural œconomics of the county. Where a farm is under the dairy-system, it has been remarked, that the long-horned cows are generally most esteemed: these are frequently brought from Leicestershire. The Yorkshire, the Herefordshire, and various crosses are also occasionally found. In regard to *horses*, it may be observed, that the

* The following statement, in the Agricultural Survey, of the increase and decrease resulting from inclosure in several parishes, appears interesting:

BARLEY.

Inclosures	29
Increased in	14
Decreased in	13
As before in	2

OATS.

Inclosures	31
Increased in	29
Decreased in	2

PULSE.

Inclosures	25
Increased in	11
Decreased in	12
As before in	2

CATTLE.

Inclosures	13
Increased in	9
Decreased in	1
As before in	3

DAIRY.

Inclosures	18
Increased in	13
Decreased in	1
As before in	4

SHEEP.

Inclosures	8
Increased in	8

TURNIPS.

Increased in	4

POTATOES.

Increased in	3

ARTIFICIAL GRASS.

Increased in	1

the practice prevails in many districts of not suffering them to remain in the stables at night. Where the farmers are in the habit of *soiling* their horses, rainfoin is considered highly preferable to clover. The Berkshire breed of *sheep* was formerly the most favoured; but, latterly, the South Downs have risen into much esteem, and seem to be gradually spreading over the whole county. The farms of Oxfordshire are usually well stocked with sheep *. The Berkshire *hogs* are the kind most commonly seen; and, while mentioning this animal, it may be proper to observe, that many boars are fed in the neighbourhood of Oxford for the purpose of making brawn, an article of much request in that city. One experimental cultivator encourages the breed of domestic *rabbits* to a considerable extent. He has some hundreds of stock, and finds that they produce sufficient manure for twenty-six acres annually.

* Dr. Plot is too credulous a writer to be implicitly accepted as authority, but his mention of *sheep*, in the "Natural History of Oxfordshire," is, at any rate, deserving of observation in a note:—"Of four footed beasts that chew the cud they have a sort of sheep esteemed in this country for their constantly bearing two lambs at a time; whence they have obtained the name (though somewhat an improper one) of *double ewes*. But there are much stranger sheep, though, perhaps, not so profitable, at *Ricot*, in the park of Lord Norreys, brought hither from some other parts of England and Wales, but now breeding here: of which some of them at first had *six* or *eight* horns a-piece! but the number, upon mixture of their generation with other sheep, is since diminished. However, there remain still two of them with very *strange heads*, having each *four* horns; one of them with two larger ones issuing from the top of its head, bending forwards, and two side ones coming out from under its ears, and bending round towards its mouth; and the other having two large horns standing pretty upright on its head, and two side ones proceeding from under the ears, like the former, and bending round to the cheeks, into which they would grow (and so in the whole kind) were they not prevented by being timely cut off. And as these are remarkable for their many horns, there was another sheep once there that excelled all the rest *in its being a unicorn*: having a single horn growing almost in the middle of its forehead, twenty-one inches long." The head of this latter prodigy Dr. Plot informs us was preserved at Ricot at the time of his writing, and there are several plates in the Natural History illustrative of this singular "Breed."

annually. He supposes that the carcase of this little animal, which is so injurious to agriculture when in a wild state, repays the expense of feeding, and the manure is of a very desirable description.

WOODS, PLANTATIONS, &c.

Camden describes the woods of Oxfordshire as forming one of the chief boasts of the county; and Plot admits, that anciently such might have been the fact, but says that, "owing to the late unhappy wars," (the civil contests in the reign of Charles I.) "wood has become so *scarce*, that it is a common thing to sell it by weight; and not only at Oxford, but in many other places in the northern parts of the shire, where, if brought to *Mercat*, it is ordinarily sold for about one shilling the hundred; but, if remote from a great town, it may be had for sevenpence." This seems a very extraordinary circumstance, and can be only accounted for by the want, at that period, of inland coals, which are now so plentifully introduced to the county. Faggot-wood may, at this time, be purchased in most parts of Oxfordshire for twelve shillings the hundred faggots, and grubbed wood (or roots) for about twenty-one shillings the waggon load. Except in the very northern districts, and omitting the article of oak, Oxfordshire may at present be certainly termed a well-wooded county.

The whole of the Chiltern division abounds in beech, and has been supposed by some, with much appearance of truth, to form a part of that great "forest," described by Leland, as stretching 120 miles westward from the border of Kent. "The beech woods of Oxfordshire," says Mr. Davis, in his Original Report *, "consist of trees growing on their own stems, produced by the falling of the beech mast, as very little is permitted to grow on the old stools, which are generally grubbed up. They are drawn occasionally,

* This Report is so truly valuable, that those who have had an opportunity of inspecting it must feel cause to regret that the Board did not publish it at length.

nionally, being never felled all at once, except for the purpose of converting the land into tillage, which has been much practised of late years. It requires some judgment to thin these woods so that the present stock may not hang too much over the seedlings, at the same time that, in a south aspect, an injury may take place by exposing the soil too much to the sun; for it is to be observed, that the north side of a hill will produce a better growth of beech than the south side. The succession of young trees in beech wood is much injured by admitting sheep, or other cattle, into them; and, though it is observed by some that sheep do no damage in winter, when the leaf is off, yet it is the opinion of others, that the wool which is left hanging on the young stock is prejudicial to its growth, even supposing, what is doubtful, that the sheep do not crop them. There are some oak and ash trees in these woods, dispersed among the beech, which have sprung up in places where the seeds have dropped, or been carried by birds. These seldom grow to any great bulk, though sometimes to great lengths, but they are not very numerous."

In the *Forest* of *Whichwood* the oak, the ash, the beech, and elm, are intermixed. Of the first most noble and beneficial tree a majority is seen; but, though the oaks of Whichwood are numerous and thriving, there are not many which are likely to be ready, in at least, the next half century for naval use. The ash seems a favourite with the soil, and is both abundant and flourishing. Beech is frequent, but the elm is comparatively seldom found. The *coppices* of Whichwood Forest are its most profitable production. Of these there are thirty-four; eighteen of which belong to the king, twelve to the Duke of Marlborough, and four to certain individuals. The coppice-wood belonging to his Majesty is usually cut at eighteen years' growth, and that appertaining to the Duke at twenty-one. The emolument derived from each acre is about six shillings per annum. The open part of the forest produces nothing but brush-fuel, (which, though meagre, is still found useful by the poor) and food for the deer, which are exceedingly numerous. When a coppice is cut, the

lord of the Domain causes a hedge and ditch to be formed round the site, for the term of seven years, until the expiration of which period no person possessed of commonable right can enter with his cattle. The following abstract shews the allotments into which the forest is divided:—

	Statute Measure.		
	A.	R.	P.
King's Coppices	1649	2	10
Baron's ditto (Duke of Marlborough)	1041	3	17
——————(Mr. Fettyplace, &c.)	346	0	33
Keeper's Lodges and Lawns	134	0	23
The open Forest	2421	1	15
	5593	0	18
The Chase woods	487	3	4
Blandford Park	639	1	17
	6720	1	39

In the vicinity of Stanton St. John are considerable tracts of woodland, in which the oak is frequent, called *the quarters;* and there are many expanses of nearly a similar description in various other parts of the county.

The great price lately paid for timber, and the high rent offered for arable land, have acted as irresistible temptations with many landlords; and considerable ranges of wood have accordingly been grubbed up. But, on the other hand, recent plantations are numerous throughout the county; and, as an instance, it may be observed, that the present Duke of Marlborough entirely planted the great Belt at Blenheim, the extent of which is not less than thirteen miles.

The RIVERS of Oxfordshire form the most pleasing feature in a detail of its natural circumstances; and the CANAL, which unites its main stream with the great flow of the Severn, is an honourable proof of the commercial and enterprising spirit which pervades the county. The natural historians, who have stated the

the number of rivers which find a course through Oxfordshire, to be no less than three score and ten, have not at all exaggerated. Each valley of length has its stream, and it may be confidently asserted, that no district of England is better watered than this.

Among these numerous meanders, the Thame, the Isis, the Charwell, the Evenlode, and Windrush, claim priority of rank; but the great pride of the county is that confluence of the former two, which constitutes the river Thames *, a stream that opens an access to every part of the globe, since a bale of goods may now be placed on "the frail footing of a plank," at one extremity of Oxford; and, after performing a complete circumnavigation, through the medium of different vessels, may be restored at another point of the city, without having once touched land. That the commercial advantages arising from the ready mode of conveyance afforded by the Thames are inestimable, must be obvious to every person who views the heavy freights which are drawn with comparative ease over its bosom; and, as a natural circumstance productive of ornament, of health, and pleasure, neither native nor traveller can easily bestow on it an undue height of character. Respecting the course of this majestic river through Oxfordshire, and the pictorial beauties formed by its progress, Mr. Skrine † has so ably anticipated our intended description, that we are induced (though compelled on

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* It is with much reluctance, that we adopt this modern division of the Thames into two rivers. The impropriety of such a division has been before stated in the Beauties of England, &c. under the article Berkshire, page 86; and, assuredly, in the Saxon Chronicle (and in several charters still older than many parts of the Saxon Chronicle) the river is styled *Thames*, or *Tems*, in districts much above Dorchester, where the confluence takes place between the Thame and presumed Isis. But the distinction, however improper, has been lately countenanced in the proceedings of the supreme legislative court, and is uniformly taken as correct in common usage. It is obviously a vulgarism; but when the learned and the high stoop to the language of the ignorant, a writer must fall into the tone, for the attainment of perspicuity.

† In his "General Account of all the Rivers of note in Great Britain."

taking some freedoms of abbreviation) to profit by his blended accuracy and elegance. After observing that the original fountain of the Thames, like the source of the Nile, has occasioned much controversy, Mr. Skrine proceeds to say, that the streams which afford subject of contention "unite near Letchlade, and creep in obscurity through the plain of Oxfordshire, by the parallel canal which has been lately made to join the Severn with the Thames. After *the Coln* and the Lech have added their tributary forces, the navigation of this river (under the name of Isis) properly commences; but it is understood to be long very imperfect, from its winding course, and its prevailing shallows; neither is the country it first traverses, dividing the counties of Oxford and Berks, at all pleasant, as it pursues its way almost unseen in the midst of an unwearied plain, first towards the east, and afterwards inclining towards the north. In this level the *Windrush* joins it from Burford and Witney, and the more pleasant stream of the *Evenlode*, pursuing nearly the same direction from the north-west, descends from Whichwood Forest, and the great Ridings of Charlbury, united, at last, with a smaller stream, which forms the great Lake in Woodstock Park. The Isis, thus augmented turns suddenly, to the south, washing the ruined walls of Godstow Nunnery. The vale now expands into a spacious amphitheatre, bounded by some striking hills, in the centre of which the majestic towers, domes, and spires of Oxford burst upon the sight, appearing proudly ranged behind the thick shade of the venerable groves. Here the Isis divides itself into various small channels as it traverses the meadows of Witham, leaving Oxford on the left, and passing through several handsome stone bridges, connected by a grand causeway, which forms its principal approach from the west. These streams soon re-uniting, the river turns round the city towards the north-east, and, crossed by an ancient stone bridge, glides beautifully through the enamelled and ornamented meads of Christ-church. A superb walk of elms beneath this spacious college fronts its meadow, over the deep foliage of which the Gothic buildings of Christ-

Christ-church appear in stately pride as they display themselves gradually, with a succession of all the numerous towers of the University, in the descent of the Isis. A little lower it is joined by the Charwell, flowing from the north of Banbury, and passing on the eastern side of Oxford through the arches of the magnificent Bridge of Magdalen.

"The country becomes now, for a while, more inclosed, and the numerous plantations surrounding Lord Harcourt's noble seat of Nuneham are finely opposed by the thick woods of Bagley, in Berkshire. The Chiltern hills occupy all along the back ground at a distance, forming a waving line towards the south, sometimes sheathed with thick woods of beech, and at others protruding their chalky sides and downish summits into the plain. The windings of the river through this great level are frequent; but its direction is mostly southward, a little inclined to the east, as it passes between two high Berkshire hills, and the long straggling town of Dorchester, in Oxfordshire. Somewhat below this place the Thame advances from the north-east to meet it, passing through the ancient bridges of Wheatley and Dorchester, and joining the Isis a little above the point where the more modern pile of Shillingford Bridge crosses both combined. At this junction the Thames first," (popularly) "obtains its name.

"Shillingford Bridge occupies a romantic position, which strikes the eye more strongly from being unlike the rest of the country, which bears an open and dreary aspect; the more ancient pile of Wallingford Bridge succeeds, below its town, and Mongewell, a seat of the Bishop of Durham, graces the Oxfordshire bank of the Thames. The inclination of the river from Wallingford to Pangbourn is almost due south; but it there begins to form a considerable circle by the east to the north, below Reading, till it reaches Henley."

After it quits Wallingford, the scenery assumes a thousand fresh graces of aspect. "The river now forms an indented valley through the range of the Cotteswold hills, which, losing insensibly their downish character, become at last adorned with

most of the varied beauties of art and nature that could be comprehended within their outline. High beech woods cover their sides and summits, while rich meadows attend the descent of the river. Towns and villages are sprinkled about in all directions, and magnificent seats appear on the heights which overhang the Oxfordshire and Berkshire banks. *Reading*, the handsome county town of the latter district, occupies a pleasant position; and the valley formed by the Thames expands into a rich plain, full of verdure, woods, and population. The *Kennet* here joins its tributary waters, flowing eastward from the Downs of Wiltshire, where it rises near a village of that name. The *Loddon* brings a further increase somewhat lower, and the Thames, thus augmented, swells into a majestic river, full of commercial craft, and glides, in a broad silver mirror, through the plain, till it becomes engulphed amidst the fine chain of hills surrounding Henley. A more beautifully marked country than this cannot easily be formed by the most romantic fancy; and Nature has placed this British paradise within forty miles of the capital of our country, to decorate the banks of its principal river. The Thames throughout divides the counties of Oxford and Buckingham from Berkshire, rolling, in a broad transparent stream, between hills cloathed profusely with beech woods, and ornamented with the splendid seats of some of our nobility. The extensive and finely-disposed territory of Lord Malmesbury bears among these a strong pre-eminence, covering several bold hills with its plantations, between the hollows of which delightful lawns descend to the margin of the river. Immediately below, the handsome town of Henley covers the Oxfordshire bank, whose lofty flint tower, and elegant stone bridge, form distinguished objects, from which ever side they are viewed." *

In general character, though the Thames is by no means a rapid stream, it is far from being sluggish in its course, but proceeds with majestic and sedate deliberation. It has been poetically described as "without o'erflowing, full;" and such is, indeed, strictly

* Skrine, p. 319, &c.

strictly the case. Its waters are silvery and clear, except when disturbed by floods, to which it is occasionally liable. The edible fish produced by this great river, while it remains with Oxfordshire, are chiefly pike, chubbs, barbel, pearch, eels, roach, daice, and gudgeons. Salmon are sometimes found, as straggling visiters, even in the higher precincts of the river; and Dr. Plot mentions, as a curious native of the Isis, a fish locally termed the *Pride*; of the long, cartilaginous, smooth kind, "having a mouth cut neither perpendicularly downward nor transversely, but hollowed, as it were, between two cheeks, without an under-jaw. On the top of its head it has *one*, and on each side *seven* holes, that supply the place of gills; and, under the belly, a small line reaching from the mouth to the opposite extremity. It moves by a winding impulse of its body, without the help of any other fins but the *pinnulæ* at the tail." The *great quantity* of the more valuable sort of fish formerly met with in this river is evident from the same writer, who tells us that, "in the year 1674, the Isis gave so ample testimony of its great plenty, that, in two days appointed for the fishing of Mr. *Maior* and the bailiffs of the city of Oxford, it afforded, between Swithin's wear and Woolvercot-bridge, (a space of about three miles,) *fifteen hundred* jacks, beside other fish." It is certain that the Thames now is not nearly so prolific in any three miles of its course; and yet, perhaps, the river is not so *hardly fished* at present as in the seventeenth century. The deficiency may be safely ascribed to an increase in the practice of drainage, which, by disencumbering numerous rivulets of sedge, and other weeds, has deprived the pike of convenient breeding-places.

A curious particular in the natural history of the river Thames occurs in the circumstance of its always *freezing first at the bottom*. This habit is often found to prevail among rivers in Germany, and particularly those in the northern parts of that country; but is asserted by the writer of the article "Ice," in the Encyclopædia Britannica, never to be met with in the more temperate of the European climates. The fact is assuredly otherwise.

The congelation of the river Thames uniformly commences in the lowest places. The mass then formed rises (on a rude calculation) to about the middle of the water, where it presents, as in the streams of Germany, a resemblance to the partial consolidation of nuclei, or small hail. A second mass then forms at the bottom; the mass, centrally situated, rises to the surface; and the new *bottom*, or *ground ice*, takes its place, and gradually (if permitted by a continued obstruction of sun-beams) mounts to the superior fabric, with which it speedily assimilates.* Dr. Plot accounts for this circumstance by supposing that the water of the Thames is more abundantly impregnated with salt than that of other English rivers; and that, as salt naturally sinks to the bottom, and, as naturally, inclines to a principle of congelation, the formation of ice consequently takes place first at the greatest depth.

Among the subordinate rivers of Oxfordshire the "nitrous Windrush," so serviceable to the manufactory of Witney, though it flows through a narrow channel, and pervades only a limited district, is perhaps one of the most useful. Our mention of Dr. Plot has been frequent; yet it would be improper to quit the subject of natural streams in Oxfordshire without observing that he says, (Nat. His. p. 26,) "The banks of the *Thame* are so well sated with some kind of acid, that no well-water in the whole town of the name will either brew or lather with soap. But none of these give a tincture so high that they can be perceived by the most exquisite palate, but only so far forth as may conduce to a due fermentation, and to keep them living; and yet, without doubt, from hence it is that the Thames water, at sea, in eight months' time acquires so spiritous and active a quality, that upon opening some of the casks, and holding the candle near the bung-hole, the steams have taken fire like spirit of wine, and sometimes endangered firing the ship. Hence it is, also, that its stench

* From repeated endeavours at investigation, we think it may safely be asserted, that not one of the many auxiliary streams which run into the Thames between Letchlade and Henley possesses this curious habit.

stench is no absolute corruption, and that, after a third or fourth fermentation, it equals the waters of the well in the haven of Brundusium, and is offensive no more; and, though the mariners are sometimes forced to drink it and hold their noses, yet upon that account they do not sicken, whereas all other waters, as far as has been hitherto observed, become irrecoverable when once offensive to the smell, and dangerous to drink."

The OXFORD CANAL enters the county at its northern extremity, between Claydon and the Three-Shire Stone. Approaching the vicinage of the river Charwell, at Cropredy, it proceeds, at a small distance from the banks of that river, to the city of Oxford, where its channel terminates, and is succeeded by the navigation of the Isis. The advantages derived from this recent cut are incalculably great, as it opens an immediate connexion between the interior of the county, and Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester, and the Wednesbury collieries.

After the mention of the rivers and canals, the *roads* deserve notice. Till within the last few years these were, in common with most provincial thoroughfares, deplorably bad. A writer of the seventeenth century describes many of the ways as *mended*, at that time, with a soft white stone, whose salt is so free from the bonds of sulphur, that, with the frosts and rain, it slakes like lime; and Young says, that he "remembers the roads forty years ago, when they were in a condition formidable to the bones of all who travelled on wheels. The two great turnpikes which crossed the county by Witney and Chipping-Norton, by Henley and Wycombe, were repaired, in some places, with stones as large as they could be brought from the quarry; and, when broken, left so rough as to be calculated for dislocation rather than exercise. At that period the cross roads were impassable but with real danger." The change to be now observed is of a most gratifying description: turnpike-roads, in general good, intersect the county in the direction of *all* its principal markets; and the majority of the parochial, or cross-ways, are much better than the great thoroughfares were a century ago.

Notwith-

Notwithstanding the facilities offered by the frequency of its streams, by the broad and ready navigation of its great river, and, latterly, by the ease with which merchandise may be forwarded to a canal that joins sea to sea, the *manufactures* of the county are few, and not in a remarkably flourishing condition. At *Witney* is a manufactory for the weaving of blankets, which was formerly much noted. This trade, however, was progressively declining for many years, until the introduction of machinery took place, and enabled the proprietors, by producing the staple on reduced terms, to restore, in some measure, the flourishing tone of the business. At Woodstock the manufacture of delicate articles, composed of polished steel, is cultivated to some extent; and, in the same town, the manufacture of leather into breeches and gloves was introduced about fifty years back. This latter branch has gradually advanced in consequence, and is now productive of a considerable influx of money to the county, and affords employment to great numbers of the local population. A coarse sort of velvet is made at Bloxham and at Banbury. Except these, we have nothing to notice but the article of lace which is chiefly made in the neighbourhood of Thame, though not even there on an extensive scale. The town of Henley has, for many centuries, been in the habit of supplying London with large quantities of malt.

The subjects of agriculture, of manufactures, and trade, naturally lead to a consideration of the STATE of the POOR, a topic of high importance in county examination, and one at least as interesting to the feelings as to the curiosity. If we might be allowed to judge from the answer given to the surveyor appointed by the agricultural board, when he applied to the keeper of the county gaol,* we should be led to pronounce the subordinate classes of Oxfordshire conspicuous in good morals; but every period is not so

* "I found that blankets and shags were made in Oxford gaol, and I enquired for annual accounts, which were distributed some years ago; but the answer was, "*There are no prisoners, and therefore the accounts are dropped!*"

so happy, in this respect, as that of 1807. The assize lists of Oxfordshire are, in general, too much on a parallel with those of other counties; yet it must be remarked, with pleasure, that few crimes of a character frightfully high have called for public punishment in this district for several years lately passed. The temptations to local vice are generally contained in the dissipated habits of crowded cities, and the dangerous species of semi-barbarous freedom produced by large tracts of woodland, only partially appropriated, or vested, for the chief parts, in hands too dignified and remote for the due execution of immediate authority. An incitement of this latter description we find in the long wild ranges of Whichwood Forest. In these tracts deer (the royal beast productive of so many disputes and so much oppression in the feudal ages, and those of unlimited monarchical power which succeeded,) are extremely numerous; and game of almost every description abounds in an equal degree. The vicinity is, in consequence, fertile of a race of poor who cannot bear the thought of work while surrounded by such prolific *wastes*, and who, accordingly, endeavour to supply the wants of nature by poaching, by deer-stealing, and all the various pilfering arts which the vulgar qualify with a softer epithet than that of theft. The effects of an improved police are, however, gratefully evident, in the circumstance of these idle foresters seldom committing an act of violence beyond the pale of their woodland robberies. A fact well deserving of notice, when it is recollected that, in such a life of precarious sylvan depredation, the affluence of a day is often followed by the foodless penury of a week.

But the district of Whichwood is limited, when compared with the county at large; and with the adjacency of temptation the evil propensity ceases. In those points of moral degradation which imply a condescension to the weekly practice of begging at the parochial alms-table, the labourers of Oxfordshire unhappily share with their class-men in most other districts. If this were not a *general* practice in the county, we should readily attribute

it

it to individual indolence, or to a more active degree of vice. But, as the custom is uniform, we confess that it is, to us, impossible to discover any other cause for the lamentable fact than that of the tardily-given rise in wages, or remuneration, not proving adequate to the advanced price of the necessaries of life.*

The effect of enclosures does not appear to have lessened the comforts of the peasant's condition, in general; but, still, there were some under the old system of commonage, who were enabled to keep a cow; a benefit of which they are now deprived. These instances are *few;* but so are the poor man's privileges; and it is matter of deep regret when public interest causes *one* source of his enjoyments to be taken away. It has been often recommended by theorists, for a certain proportion of land to be lett, at a moderate rate, to labourers, especially in the instance of enclosures; but nothing of that kind has taken place in practice. Still it is satisfactory to observe that nearly the whole of the Oxfordshire cottages have a well-sized and fruitful garden attached to them.

* A respectable resident of Oxfordshire says, "If the proprietors of land had obliged their tenants to have paid their labourers fourteen, sixteen, or eighteen-pence a day, in proportion to the size of their families, instead of racking the rents up to a degree which can scarcely be borne, it would have reflected upon them immortal honour." We readily admit that the honor accruing to the feelings of landholders who had acted in such a way, would have been great. But why should the possessors of land thus prevent the value of their fee-simple from moving in progressive steps with the decreased estimation of money? A system of barter in regard to the procuration of tenantship was first introduced by the farmer, and the enlarged size of farms, and the improved modes of culture, are sufficient advantages to enable him to pay his own labourers, without an appeal to the landlord.——These things must find their level in the course of time. The farmer will, at length, discover that it is quite as easy, in regard to circumstance, for him to pay the labourer in the shape of advanced wages, as in that of parochial rate; but, meanwhile, the peasant is far from being in a manly or comfortable situation, and it will take ages to renovate within him an honest dignity of self-dependence.

them. The rent of the peasant's cottage is likewise usually moderate, unless it be in the neighbourhood of a populous and commercial town.

There is one instance in which a dignified individual has adopted so salutary a mode of procedure, in regard to the poor, that it merits particular notice. The Bishop of Durham, who resides at Mongewell, has built six pairs of cottages, in a substantial way, and on a judicious plan, for each of which tenements he requires the annual rent of 2l. 2s. To every habitation is attached a good garden, and convenience for the keeping of pigs. But rent, in money, is not his Lordship's object: it is his great wish to form a race of neighbouring tenantry, who shall be conspicuous for moral habits, and a judicious order of domestic economy. To atchieve this great aim, every workman employed on his estate is encouraged to deposit in the hands of the bailiff, at harvest-time, a sum of not less amount than 1l. 11s. 6d.; in consequence of which provident reserve in the hour of comparative plenty, the labourer is permitted, through the following winter, to receive barley from the bailiff at two shillings per bushel under the market price, or any other grain needed by his family, at a proportionate rate of reduction. His Lordship, accurately observing, that half the misery of the poor arises from the impositions, as to badness of article, deficiency of weight, and allurements to run into debt, practised by little country shopkeepers, has established a village shop on his own foundation, in which not only his own neighbouring tenants, but all other poor in the vicinity, may purchase what they need at a reduced price, for ready money. Flax is delivered to the females of the cottage family, in any quantity required; and when they return it spun into thread, they are paid a good price for their labour. These practices require little observation. Money *given* to the poor is often an incitement to indolence; but that, by placing the labourer in a ready way of supporting himself with comfort, and by encouraging him in frugal and industrious habits, you call forth the best principles of his nature, and teach him

him to look with honourable blushes on any resemblance of a *gift*, is evident, from this circumstance:—the labourers under the Bishop of Durham never seek relief from the parish.

Only a small portion of the labouring part of a county can hope to meet with such judicious patronage: a fact unpleasantly proved by the large sums levied in the shape of POOR'S RATES throughout Oxfordshire. These, of course, vary according to incidental circumstances. In some few parishes they are often as low as two shillings in the pound; in others as high as ten or eleven shillings; and in the scarce years of 1800 and 1801 they amounted, in one parish, to twenty-nine shillings on the pound. The total sum raised by the poor's rate, "and other rate, or rates, within the year ending Easter 1803, was 102,559l. 10s. 6d." The number of persons relieved from the poor's rate permanently, *out* of houses, not including children, was, in the same year, 6539. Ditto, *in* houses 1243. The number of friendly societies, at the same time, was sixty-nine. And it may be remarked, that the annual interest, or produce, of monied charitable donations, incidental to the county, was, in 1786, the sum of 706l. 13s. 3d.; and that arising from land 3347l. 2s. 11d. According to the returns made to Parliament in 1803, the average of the poor's rates of the county was 4s. 8d. in the pound; and it is usual, in most parts of Oxfordshire, to levy the rate on the rack-rental.

MODES OF TENURE, ESTATES, PRICE OF LAND, &c.

No variety occurs from the mode of tenures prevalent through the south of England, unless that arising from the frequency of church and college leases. The fine usual on a renewal of this species of tenure is a sum equal to the amount of rent for the term of one year and a half; but, in some instances, the rent itself is raised on the expiration of a lease. There are to be found, in the northern parts of the county, many of that moderate and comfortable class of landholders termed yeomen: persons who have a patrimony of some four or five hundred acres, and hold

the chief part in their own hands: thus attaining, by means of one possession, the various blessings of health, peace, and real plenty. In every part of the county many small proprietors are likewise to be met; men who either are relics of the *ancient* yeomanry, a race presumed consequential if inheriting a single hundred of acres, or who have been enabled to purchase small ranges of land, by the exercise of rural or commercial industry. But the bulk of Oxfordshire is not vested in such moderate proprietors as the preceding. "There is one estate that produces 29,000l. a year, *on the table;* one of 12,000l.; one of 7,000l.; one of 6,000l.; one of 5,500l.; two of 4,000l.; and several of above 3,000l."* The general mode of estimating the value of land is to place it at twenty-six years' purchase. Thus, at a fair rent, it will produce about three and a half per cent. on the money invested.

The Principal Landholders, when the Survey was made by order of William I. are thus noted in Domesday Book:†

King William.
Archbishop of Canterbury.
Bishop of Winchester.
Bishop of Salisbury.
Bishop of Exeter.
Bishop of Lincoln.
Bishop of Baieux.
Bishop of Lisieux.
Abbey of Abingdon.
Abbey of Battel.
Abbey of Winchecombe.
Abbey of Pratellis.
Church of St. Denys of Paris.
Canon of Oxford, and other Clerks.
Earl Hugh.
Earl of Moreton.
Earl of Eureux.
Earl Aubery.
Earl Eustace.
Walter Gifard.
William, son of Anseulf.
William de Warene.
William Peverel.
Henry de Fereires.
Hugh de Bolebech.
Hugh de Ivry.
Robert de Stadford.
Robert de Oilgi.
Roger de Ivry.

Ralph

* Agric. Rep. p. 16.

† Vide Bawdwen's "Translation of the Record called Domesday," &c.

Ralph de Mortemer.
Ralph Peverel.
Richard de Curci.
Richard Puingiaud.
Berenger de Todeni.
Milo Crispin.
Wido de Reinbodcurth.
Gilo, brother of Ansculf.
Gilbert de Gaunt.
Geoffry de Mandevile.
Ernulf de Hesding.
Edward de Sarisberic.
Swain, the Sheriff.
Alured, grandson of Wigot.
Wido de Oilgi.
Walter Ponz.
William Leuric.
William, son of Manne.
Ilbod, brother of Ern. de Hesding.
Reinbald.
Robert, son of Murdrac.
Osburn Gifard.
Benzelin.
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Ipsden	John Read, Esq. resident.
Joyce Grove	Thomas Toovey, Esq. resident.
Kirtlington Park	Sir Henry Watkin Dashwood, Bart. resident.
Kingston Blount.....	Richard Clerke, Esq.
Lillingston Lovell	—— Darell, Esq.
Little Hasely Court ..	The Hon. Andrew Foley, resident.
Middleton Stoney	Earl of Jersey, resident.
Mongewell	Bishop of Durham.
Mapledurham	Michael Blount, Esq. resident.

North Aston	Oldfield Bowles, Esq. resident.
Nether Kiddington....	A seat of the Gore family.
Newington	George White, Esq. resident.
Nethercot	Richard Paul Jodrell, Esq.
Nuneham Park	Earl of Harcourt.
Rousham	Sir Charles Cottrell Dormer, Bart. (a minor.)
Rycot Park	Earl of Abingdon.
Shiplake Hill.....	Lord Mark Kerr.
Shipton	Lady Read, resident.
Shelswell	—— Harrison, Esq. resident.
Shirburn Castle	Earl of Macclesfield.
Stonor	Thomas Stonor, Esq. resident.
Studley	Alexander Croke, Esq.
Shotover.....	George Schutz, Esq. resident.
South Leigh	Colonel Sibthorpe.
Tew Park	George Frederic Stratton, Esq.
Tackley	Lady Smith Gardiner.
Tusmore	William Fermor, Esq. resident.
Thame Park	Miss Wykham, resident.
Wroxton	Earl of Guildford.
Wood Eaton	John Weyland, Esq. resident.
Water Eaton	John Sawyer, Esq.
Water Perry	Henry Curzon, Esq. resident.
Waterstock	William Henry Ashhurst, Esq. resident.
Wormsley	John Fane, Esq.
Watlington Park	John Henry Tilson, Esq.
Walliscote	John Simeon, Esq.
Woodcote	Henry Calverley Cotton, Esq.
Wootton	Rev. Dr. Barkley.
Wheatfield	Lord Charles Spencer, resident.

In number, beauty, and magnificence of *public buildings* and *private structures*, Oxfordshire at least powerfully rivals, and may, probably, be said with truth to exceed any county in England.

land. The assemblage of collegiate edifices in the city of Oxford is a rich treasure of ancient art, justly the boast of natives, and the admiration of foreigners. The palace of Blenheim is well known to be the most sumptuous residence possessed by any subject in the whole of an island affluent in domestic architecture; and though, comparatively, not many of the nobility reside in the county, the mansions inhabited by those few are of a secondary character only when compared with that august building. The seats constructed by the gentry are numerous, and highly respectable. In the catalogue exhibited to King James I. the number of churches in Oxfordshire is stated to be 195, of which eighty-eight were of the description termed *appropriate*;* but Camden† makes the number resulting from his survey to be not less than 260. Among these parochial edifices there are some interesting specimens of the Saxon, and many fine examples of the English, or Gothic, mode of architecture.

The facility with which building materials are procured causes the habitations of agriculturists, and all other persons in the middle class of life, to be commodious, substantial, and agreeable to the eye. The same abundance of materials happily operates to the benefit of that lowly order which it is the duty of every landholder to cherish as the strength and sinews of his hereditary right. The cottages tenanted by rustic labourers are, in general, solid and comfortable; a circumstance not always to be found in some counties, even in the neighbourhood of the gaudiest mansions.

The excellence of internal regulation which prevails in this district seems evident from the low standard of the *county rates*. These do not amount, on an average, to more than three-pence in the pound, though a new gaol has been built at Oxford within

 the

* Such as, by the authority of the Pope, and with the consent of the king, and bishop of the diocese, were settled upon monasteries, bishoprics, colleges, and hospitals, whose revenues were but small, either because they were built upon their ground, or were granted by the lords of the manor. Camden, concerning the division of Britain, page 170.

† Gough's edition, Vol. II. 11.

the last few years, on an eminently appropriate scale. The whole of Oxfordshire is in the diocese of Oxford and province of Canterbury. The county sends nine members to Parliament: two for the shire, two for the city, two for the university, two for the town of Woodstock, and one for that of Banbury.

The TITLE of EARL of OXFORD was first borne* by Sweyn, eldest son of Godwyn, Earl of Kent, on whom it was bestowed by King Harold. But the life of the new-made earl was as brief as that of the royal donor. Sweyn had held the earldom in conjunction with those of Hereford, Somerset, Berks, and Gloucester. The Empress Maud granted it, distinct, to *Alberic*, or *Aubrey, De Vere*, in whose family it was retained for many centuries. And here it is necessary to observe that the *De Veres* were earls of the *shire* of Oxford, and had specifically granted to them the *tertiam denarium*, or third penny of the pleas of the county.

Many of the De Veres, Earls of Oxford, were conspicuous for gallantry, for loyalty, and that magnificence of hospitable spirit that was one of the darling virtues of the times in which they flourished. But few noble houses furnished more victims to the semi-barbarous tenor of the middle ages. Robert, who was Earl of Oxford in the reign of Richard II. was one of the distinguished favourites of that prince, and was by him created Marquis of Dublin, and Duke of Ireland. These distinctions did not fail to raise much envy among many branches of the ancient nobility; and some refractory barons repaired to arms, for the purpose of humbling the king through the destruction of his favourite. The earl was not backward in replying to their hostile advance. He met them at *Radcot-bridge;* but his force was speedily routed, and he was fain to save his life by swimming across the river Isis. He escaped to the continent; but died, three years afterwards, in *Loraine*, his death being occasioned by a wound received from a boar which he held in chase. His corpse was conveyed to England, and was interred at the priory of Colne in Essex, which structure

* Except as to the *official* earls, or consuls, of the Anglo-Saxon eras.

structure had been founded by his ancestor, Alberic, the first earl. The king attended the funeral in person; and his monument, which possesses much beauty, is still extant, enriched with the effigies of himself and wife.

In the dreadful war between the houses of Lancaster and York the De Veres were firm adherents to the former family; in consequence of which strenuous and loyal attachment John, Earl of Oxford, and his eldest son, Alberic, were beheaded together, by order of the sanguinary Edward IV. on Tower-hill, in the year 1462. John, the second son of the decapitated peer, now succeeded to the title, but found his coronet a barren and comfortless trophy. His estates were confiscated, himself imprisoned for twelve years in the castle of Hammes, near Calais, and his countess (sister to the potent Earl of Warwick) was compelled to support existence by the exercise of her needle! This was the Earl John, who accidentally caused the defeat of the Lancastrians at Barnet. A thick mist pervaded the field at the commencement of the battle. In spite of the confusion created by this circumstance, the brave Earl beat his peculiar opponents from their ground; but, when returning to the assistance of Warwick, his brother-in-law, the fog caused a mistake of fatal tendency. The device on the coats of Lord Oxford's soldiers was a radiated star; and that worn as a badge by the partisans of the inimical House of York was a sun with rays. In the dimness of the season Lord Warwick mistook the emblem, and directed a charge to be made on the advancing party of his friends. Oxford, suspecting treachery, fled with 800 of his followers, and the day was in consequence lost!

The earl, however, outlived the severity of fortune, and no trials could lessen the force of his antipathy towards the house of York. He was a principal actor in the combat of Bosworth Field; and was, for services there performed, restored to his possessions, and made Lord High Admiral of England by Henry VII. His Lordship died in the fourth year of King Henry VIII.

and lies buried at the family foundation of Colne.* In consequence of the death of Aubrey, Earl of Oxfordshire, without male issue, in the year 1702, the title became extinct in the line of the De Veres, and remains dormant to the present day. But, in the year 1711, Queen Anne bestowed the titular honour of Earl of Oxford, (that is to say, of the *city*, not of the *shire*), in conjunction with that of Mortimer, on *Robert Harley*, lord high treasurer.

The family of this eminent statesman took name from the town of Harley, in Shropshire, where they were seated before the entrance of William the Conqueror. Sir William De Harley, who possessed the lordship of the paternal manor at the latter part of the eleventh century, was one of the adventurers in the first expedition to the Holy-land, and was signalized, in the opinion of that

* It was this Earl of Oxford whom the cold-blooded Henry VII. chose for the nobleman through whose instance he would at once add to the store of his coffers, and humble the temper of the barons. The king visited De Vere at his castle of Henningham, and was entertained for many days with exuberant hospitality. At his departure, the Earl's tenants and retainers, to the number of some hundreds, ranged themselves in two lines, clad in livery-coats of great magnificence. After passing through this gorgeous channel, King Henry said to his entertainer, "My Lord! I have heard much of your hospitality; but I see it is greater than the speech. These handsome gentlemen and yeomen are, sure, your menial servants?" The Earl smiled, and said, "It may please your Grace, that were not for mine ease; they are most of them my retainers, that are come to do me service at such a time as this, and chiefly to see your Grace." But this smile and inadvertent speech cost the Earl dear. The King started, contracted his brow, and said, "By my faith, my Lord! I thank you for your good cheer, but I may not endure to have my laws broken in my sight. My attorney must speak with you." The Earl was accordingly prosecuted for transgressing the law against retainers, and was fain to compound for no less than 15,000 marks.—The edict by which Henry restricted the barons from placing their badge of cognizance on more than a certain number of retainers, was, assuredly, political; but, to take advantage of bland hospitality, and to make his great friend (the man who had suffered so much in the Lancastrian cause) the first victim to his unrelenting policy, was a proof of frigid ingratitude that cannot be too severely reprobated.

that romantic age, by being present at the conquest of Jerusalem, in consequence of which achievement the Knighthood of the Sepulchre was founded *. Malcolm de Harley, a descendant, was chaplain to Edward I. and likewise possessed the valuable office of escheator on this side Trent to that monarch. The elder brother, Sir Richard Harley, was greatly serviceable to the same king in his Scottish wars, and was chosen one of the representatives for the county of Salop in several successive parliaments. His eldest son, Sir Robert, acquired Brampton Castle (a seat that has been the residence of many of his descendants,) by an intermarriage with the family of Brian de Brampton. Sir Brian Harley, second son of the above-named Sir Robert, fought with such conspicuous gallantry in the French wars of Edward III, that he was recommended by the Black Prince for a vacancy in the order of the Garter; but he died before his election. In the reign of Henry IV. Bryan Harley, Esq. the son of Sir Brian, was governor of Montgomery and Dolverin Castles, which he defended with so much bravery against Owen Glendower, that he was honoured by being allowed to change the family crest, (a buck's head proper,) to a lion rampant, gules, issuing out of a tower, tripled-towered, proper. Through succeeding generations the family remained conspicuous for bravery and patriotism, and became, by various marriages, allied to some of the oldest and most noble blood in the kingdom. In the Cromwellian war the loyalty and high spirit of the Harleys were eminently exhibited. It was in this struggle that one of the family, while fighting at the head of a regiment of horse raised by himself, received a musket-ball, which he bore in his body for the long term of fifty-eight years. On the Restoration, the services of this gentleman were duly appreciated. He was offered a peerage by Charles II. but this honour he modestly declined, saying, that "if he accepted it, his zeal and services for the restoration of the ancient government might be represented as proceeding from ambition rather than conscience."

* Playfair's British Family Antiquity, p. 387.

Robert Harley, afterwards Earl of Oxford and Mortimer, was born in Bow-street, London, and was educated at a private school, (that of the Rev. J. Birch, at Shilton, near Burford, in Oxfordshire,) a seminary concerning which it has been remarked that a Lord High Treasurer, a Lord High Chancellor, a Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, and ten Members of the House of Commons, were all contemporaries, as well in Parliament as at school! Seldom will thirteen such pupils sit, at one time, upon the class forms of a private establishment!

The future earl assisted his father in raising a troop of horse, in the patriotical interest, at the period of the great Revolution; and, on the accession of William and Mary, he was elected member of Parliament for Tregony in Cornwall. In 1701-2 he was chosen Speaker of the House of Commons, a situation which he held when Queen Anne came to the crown. In 1704 he was sworn of her Majesty's privy-council, and in the same year was appointed one of the principal secretaries of state, retaining at the same time his chair as Speaker of the House. In 1710 he was constituted Chancellor of the Exchequer, and one of the Commissioners of the Treasury. It was in this year that his life was exposed to the danger of intended assassination. While sitting at Whitehall, as member of the committee of privy-council appointed to examine the Marquis de Guiscard, a French papist, the person under examination suddenly stabbed him with a penknife that he had taken from the clerk's room into which he was first ushered. In the irritation and hurry of the minute the intended assassin was so roughly handled that he died in Newgate (to which prison he was promptly conveyed) in the course of the ensuing week. Mr. Harley recovered from his wound after a short confinement; and the House of Commons, when informed that he would speedily appear abroad, resolved to shew its sense of his exalted merits by a formal congratulation on his escape and recovery. Accordingly, when he entered the house, the Speaker addressed to him a feeling and complimentary speech, to which he returned a suitable answer. It was in consequence of this

vile

vile and ferocious assault that an act of Parliament was passed, constituting it felony, without benefit of clergy, for any person to attempt the life of a privy-counsellor in the execution of his office. A clause was likewise inserted for the indemnification of all those who, "in defending Mr. Harley, did give any wound or bruise to the Sieur Guiscard, whereby he received his death."

In 1711 Mr. Harley was advanced to the peerage, by the style and titles of Baron Harley of Wigmore in the county of Hereford; *Earl* of *Oxford* and Mortimer; with remainder, in failure of issue male, to the heirs of Sir Robert Harley, Knight of the Bath, his grandfather. On the 29th of May, in the same year, her Majesty conferred upon him the office of Lord High Treasurer; and on the 26th of October, in the year ensuing, he was elected a Knight-Companion of the order of the Garter. The most able helmsman has seldom possessed power to rule with permanent success the stormy sea of politics. His Lordship *resigned* office on the 27th of July, 1714, just five days before the death of the royal mistress to whom he had proved so just and so capable a servant. The storm once triumphant, every hand was ready to profit by the wreck. Cabal and intrigue pursued their revel; and, on June 10, 1715, the Earl was impeached by the House of Commons of high treason, and various other crimes and misdemeanors. In July he was committed to the Tower, and suffered confinement for nearly two years. A trial then took place, the result of which was an honourable acquittal by his Peers. His Lordship died in the 64th year of his age, A. D. 1724. We are compelled to wave all examination of his political conduct, though we believe that such a scrutiny would tend to the honor of his memory; but it is impossible to avoid reminding the reader that (in direct opposition to the great political luminary which soon after appeared, Sir Robert Walpole,) he was the patron and friend of those literary men on whom the polish of the age depended. The tributes of Pope appear doubly valuable when we consider that they were rendered in opposition to the wish of Lord Bolingbroke, a nobleman who too often obtained an ascendant over the judgment of that writer.

Edward Harley, the second Earl, was only son of the preceding peer. His Lordship married Henrietta Cavendish Holles, daughter and heir of John Holles, Duke of Newcastle,* by whom he had issue one son and one daughter. He died in 1741, and was buried in Westminster Abbey. This Lord made many valuable additions to the manuscripts collected by his noble father, especially such as regard the History and Antiquities of England, among which is a curious treasure of original letters and papers of state, written by various princes, statesmen, and scholars, as well foreign as native. This inestimable collection was for some time carefully preserved at the family London residence in Dover-street, by his widow; but at length her ladyship acceded to the strenuous wish of the whole literary British public, and allowed that Parliament should (in 1754) purchase it for general inspection and benefit.

From failure of male issue, Earl Edward was succeeded by his nephew,

Edward, the third Earl, who had been elected member for the shire of Hereford in several sessions of Parliament. His Lordship married, in 1725, Martha, eldest daughter of John Morgan, Esq. of Tredegar, Monmouthshire, by which lady he had three sons; and, dying in 1755, was succeeded by

Edward Harley, the eldest son, and fourth Earl. This Lord married, in 1751, Susannah, eldest daughter of William Archer, of Welford in Berkshire, Esq. He was appointed Lord of the Bed-chamber soon after the accession of his present Majesty; and, in 1766, was named Lord-Lieutenant of the county of Radnor. His Lordship died in 1790, without heir-male.

Edward, the fifth and present Earl, then succeeded, who was nephew to the preceding Lord, and son to the late Hon. John Harley, Bishop of Hereford. His Lordship was married, at the age of twenty-one, to Miss Scott, eldest daughter of the Rev. James Scott, of Itchin in Hampshire.

* Playfair's Family Antiquities, &c.

POPU-

POPULATION OF THE COUNTY OF OXFORD, 1801.

	HOUSES.			PERSONS.		OCCUPATIONS.			
	Inhabited.	By how many families occupied.	Uninhabited.	Males.	Females.	Persons chiefly employed in agriculture.	Persons chiefly employed in trade, manufactures, or handicraft.	All other persons not comprised in the two preceding classes.	Total of Persons.
Hundred of Bampton	2260	2581	122	5817	6253	2888	2117	7108	12070
——— Banbury	1575	1700	48	3872	4108	1858	1933	4187	7980
——— Binfield	1392	1476	39	3135	3533	1406	893	4479	6668
——— Bloxham	1404	1517	26	3463	3574	1873	1026	2880	7037
——— Bullington	1340	1711	31	3688	3711	3461	837	3011	7399
——— Chadlington	2128	2630	47	5886	6049	3966	724	6163	11935
——— Dorchester	539	605	18	1310	1339	1251	180	1205	2649
——— Ewelme	934	1071	33	2272	2442	2291	698	1712	4714
——— Langtree	632	686	10	1548	1620	1737	328	1103	3168
——— Lewknor	727	827	20	1795	1966	950	528	2281	3761
——— Pirton	510	557	5	1199	1360	818	354	1377	2559
——— Ploughley	2016	2270	30	4883	5010	5513	2848	1946	9893
——— Thame	717	794	19	1805	1896	1132	337	1973	3701
——— Wooton	2385	2771	53	6549	6466	3812	1175	7575	13015
City of Oxford	1827	2230	82	5920	5774	146	1647	9901	11694
Liberty of the same	213	324	11	644	733	7	721	649	1377
	20599	23750	594	53786	55834	33109	16346	57350	109620

OXFORD,

The classical and splendid metropolis of this county, is seated on a gentle elevation, in the area of an amphitheatre of hills. The rivers Isis and Charwell encompass the city on the east, the west, and the south, ornamenting and enriching the circumjacent valley with meadows of a luxuriant description, while the "wall of hills," beforementioned, shields the city of the Muses from the winds most inimical to health and comfort.

The city of Oxford presents a grand and interesting spectacle from all the neighbouring heights. Its spires, its towers, and various public edifices, display the triumph of learning with grateful magnificence; nor is the effect of these lessened on nearer inspection. The chief approaches to Oxford are particularly good. On the west, the city is entered by a broad and excellent causeway, that proceeds over many elegant modern bridges of stone. On the north, the traveller finds, as he passes through St. Giles's, a well built street, more than 2000 feet long, and 246 feet broad, in which are two churches, and several public buildings, besides the venerable colleges of Balliol and St. John. The High Street is conspicuously fine, and derives an indescribable interest from the curved direction in which it is formed. Owing to this circumstance, a fresh display of architectural grandeur takes place at almost every step. This street is well paved, and its sides are adorned by the colleges of *University*, *Queen's*, and *All Souls*. The embattled tower of Carfax Church ornaments one extremity, and a bridge of tasteful construction, in addition to the grand and lofty pinnacles of Magdalen College, completes the prospect at the opposite termination. While contemplating this scene we readily admit the words of the legitimate University Poet *, to convey no more than genuine prosaic truth:

"Would

* Warton.

Engraved by H. Rogers from a drawing by [illegible]

for the Beauties of England & Wales.

OXFORD.

View in the High Street, looking West.

London Published by Vernor & Hood, Poultry, May 1801.

"Would Clio seek the most distinguish'd seat,
Most blest, where all is so sublimely blest,
That with superior grace o'erlooks the rest;
Like a rich gem, in circling gold enshrin'd,
Where Isis' waters wind
Along the sweetest shore
That ever felt fair Culture's hands,
Or Spring's embroider'd mantle wore,
Lo! where majestic Oxford stands."

The word Oxfordshire was written by the Saxons Oxnaꝼoꝼoꝼcꝼe, and stands, in Domesday Book, Oxenefordscire. Leland has laboured to prove that the original of the name, *Oxford*, arose from the contiguity of the river *Ous*, (in Latin, *Isis)* and supposes that the ancient town was denominated *Ousford*. But this hypothesis appears to be the offspring of a mere love of novelty. We are not aware that any writings are extant in which the word is so spelt. In all probability the original town derived its appellation from the frequent passage of oxen over the adjacent rivers; and Camden appositely observes, that other nations have bestowed names on places from a similar inducement. The Grecians had their *Bosphorus*, and the Germans their *Ochenfurt*, upon the river *Oder*, both simply and unequivocally meaning *a ford* of *oxen*.

A city so long favoured by science must necessarily be supposed to have engaged the attention of the learned in every age; and, also, to have afforded continual matter for those conjectures of the curious, which rather amuse the fancy than convince the understanding. The writers concerning the antiquity of Oxford have been numerous, and they have gone very far indeed in endeavours to bestow on it the venerable crust of a remote day. By the most confident of these historians it is asserted that, in the year one thousand and nine before Christ, *Memphric*, "king of the Britons," built a town on the site of the present city. This town is said to have been called *Caer-Memphric*, in honour of the founder. The same writer (J. Ross, whom Dugdale terms a

famous

famous antiquary) proceeds to say, "Oxford primo a Conditore MEMPHRICIO—CAER MEMPRIC dicta, deinde BELLESITUM, forsan a Bello monte vicino, postea RIDOHEN, I. E. vadum Boum, et Caer vossa (Bosso) a comite quodam qui floruit tempore arturii. Oxford was first called *Mimbre* (this being Celtic, or British, for *Memphric* to the present day;) then *Belle-situm*, from a pretty mountain near; afterwards *Ridohen*, implying, in the Celtic language, a ford of oxen, and Caer-vossa (meaning *Bosso)* a certain Earl that flourished in the time of King Arthur."

This statement is credited, and repeated, by Twyne, Rogers, Lewis, Wood, &c. and Dr. Stukeley informs us * that the original town was built on the west end of the present city, in the quarter where the county gaol now stands.

A multiplication of modern names avails little with the judicious reader. He looks singly to the source whence primary information was derived; and, when he finds that *Ross* only professed to gain intelligence on this subject from certain "Welch, or British books," which are not now to be inspected, and concerning the dates of which he makes no mention, little reliance will be placed on his authority.

Although the period of its foundation cannot be satisfactorily ascertained, it still appears that a large assemblage of buildings existed, on the site of the present city, in the time of the aboriginal Britons. This place often occurs under the old British appellation of *Caer Pen Hal-goit*, a city, or town, situate on an eminence, between two rivers, and adorned with woods. When Aulus Plautius entered Britain, by command of the Emperor Claudius, Oxford is said † to "have suffered its most terrible downfal: Inclytum Oxonium Romanis temporibus vel vicus vel omnino nihil fuerit nisi *Rit-Ocheyn*, viz. Bosphorus sive trajectus Boum. The once renowned city of Oxford, in the time of the Romans, was reduced to the form of a little village, or had nothing, as it were, left of it but its name, and serving only as a ford

* Iter Curios. p. 48.

† Baxter's Gloss &c.

Engraved by Pa Lands from a drawing by W. Tomkins

for the Beauties of England & Wales

ONFORD.
Uncle Terry Hankey.

London, Published by [illegible]

a ford for oxen to pass over." Admitting this to be correct, we must believe that the city was rather abandoned by the Britons than destroyed by the Romans, since it has been shewn that the invaders entered into a ready and familiar association with the original inhabitants of the larger parts of Oxfordshire, the Dobuni: a circumstance of abandonment that appears by no means unlikely; for the Romans fixed their chief station on the eastern part of the county, and the tributary natives may reasonably be supposed to have flown to that neighbourhood for shelter. Although Wood, Leland, and many other antiquaries, have endeavoured to establish it as an opinion that Oxford, "like a Phœnix, rose from her ashes," and was a place of splendour and notoriety during the Roman sway in England, the arguments which they have advanced are by no means conclusive. It is contended, that Ptolemy distinguishes Oxford, though he mistakes its situation, and calls it Calleva; but there is no mention of it in the Itinerary of Antoninus; and it is allowed not to have formed, at any era, a Roman garrison-town. When the Saxons commenced their ravages, Oxford fell a speedy sacrifice, and is asserted by Leland "to have been reduced by hard usage to a village, having little more to boast of than its ancient name." But, after the Saxons had effected a complete conquest of the island, they restored Oxford to its former respectability, and exchanged its ancient British appellation for one more agreeable to their own language, though still retaining the precise meaning of the original. In 727, the city gained new consequence from the erection of a monastery, which was founded by *Didan*, Subregulus, or Earl, of Oxford. This monastic structure was dedicated to the Holy Trinity, and the founder and his wife were both interred within its walls. *Fridiswida*, the daughter of this noble pair, was governess of the monastery so founded; concerning whom is told the following marvellous tale:—"Algar, Earl of Leicester, had been inflamed with the love of this lady, and coveted her, though sacred and forbidden, for his wife. On her concealing herself from him in a wood at *Benson*, twelve miles from Oxford,

the city was threatened with destruction by fire, on condition she was not found. Such tyranny and presumption could not escape Divine vengeance; he was struck blind! Hence arose such a dread to the kings of Britain, that none of his successors dared enter Oxford for some time after." *

At what period the "kings of Britain" were first enabled to overcome this panic we are not informed; but the Great *Alfred* chose the city for the residence of himself and his three sons. He established a mint at Oxford, and the money there coined was termed *Ocsnafordia*. He is, likewise, supposed to have effected a more important establishment; and, from this period, the annals of learning are inseparably blended with those of Oxford, *as a city*.

Few circumstances have caused more discussion among the votaries of literature than the precise era of the FOUNDATION OF THE UNIVERSITY. Many books have been written on the subject, with a wasteful prodigality of recondite erudition. Thomas Key, Master of University College, was the original champion for the antiquity of Oxford; against whom Dr. Caius of Cambridge entered the lists, and maintained that Oxford was much inferior, in point of age, to the Sister University. The question was totally unworthy of the learning and labour bestowed, and has long been put to rest with the quibbles of Duns Scotus, and the legend of St. Fridiswida. Some of the fantastical writers who entered into this dispute referred the origin of Oxford, as a seat of learning, to "the age next succeeding the destruction of Troy."—"The studies of literature flourished here," says *Middendorp*, "ever since those excellent philosophers, with the Trojans coming out of Greece, under the command of *Brute*, entered and settled in Britain." Others, somewhat more modest, only wish to affirm that "the University was founded by *Arviragus*, a British king, according to Juvenal, under the reign of Domitian, about seventy years after our Lord's Incarnation." Another party, with greater appearance of candour, declines to mention the exact period

* Life of St. Frid. Leland's Coll. &c.

period of its foundation, but still is of opinion that it took place "soon after this kingdom was converted to Christianity." It will be obvious that these controvertists argue without any authoritative data, and merely build their hypotheses on absurd monkish traditions.

Even the foundation of Oxford, as a place of study, by King Alfred, has afforded room for discussion. John Ross, the historian before mentioned, who lived in the time of Edward IV. asserted that, "when the King and the Pope had suspended *all the Universities of England*, Alfred established, within this city, at his own expense, three teachers of grammar, arts, and divinity, in three different places; one in the High Street, towards the east gate, for twenty-six grammarians, which, for the inferiority of the science, was to be called *Little University Hall*, a name it retained to the time at which he wrote; another hall, towards the north wall, in the present school street, for twenty-six logicians, or philosophers, called *Lesser University Hall;* and a third, in the High Street, near the first hall, for twenty-six divines. Several other halls arose, shortly after, erected by the townsmen, in imitation of their sovereign, but at their own cost."

When Camden published, in 1603, his edition of *Asser* (the contemporary and biographer of King Alfred) there appeared a paragraph corroborative of the above statement; but Gough, in his observation on Camden's account of Oxfordshire, in the Britannia, says, "The paragraph from Asser was not in that older MS. published by Archbishop Parker, 1574; nor in that in the Cottonian library, since burnt, which Wanley dates about a century after Asser. The manuscript which Camden printed has never appeared since; and all we have, in favour of its genuineness, is an affidavit of Twyne to Wood; * for both Camden and Tanner thought it no older than Richard the Second's time; and Camden may have published it, as he found it, without any pre-

 fatory

* Hist. and Ant. of Oxford, p. 9.

factory account of its variations, or even without noting their insertions, if they were so."

It is certain, as is further observed by Gough, that Leland expressly says, "the History of Oxford University *prorsus nullam facit de Ealfrido mentionem;*" but, still, many early writers of credit unequivocally ascribe the foundation of schools at Oxford to that king; and Asser himself in Archbishop Parker's copy, as well as in that of Camden, insinuates the circumstance when speaking of the academy to which Alfred put his youngest son, Ethelward.

According to the edition of *Asser*, published by Camden, and various other works, commonly deemed respectable, Alfred divided his whole yearly income into two parts; afterwards subdivided one into other portions, and then appropriated the third thereof to the maintenance of his novel establishment. The old annals of the monastery of Winchester even venture so far as to name the first professors in the University:—"In the year of our Lord 886, in the second year of St. Grimbald's coming over into England, the University of Oxford was founded. The first regents there, and readers in divinity, were *St. Neot*, an abbot and eminent Professor of Theology; and *St. Grimbald*, an eloquent and most excellent interpreter of the Holy Scriptures. Grammar and rhetoric were taught by *Asserius*, a monk, a man of extraordinary learning. Logic, music, and arithmetic, were read by *John*, a monk of St. David's. Geometry and astronomy were professed by *John*, a monk, and colleague of St. Grimbald, a man of sharp wit and immense knowledge. These lectures were often honoured with the presence of the most illustrious and invincible monarch, King Alfred, whose memory, to every judicious taste, shall be always sweeter than honey."

According to the suspected tenor of Asser, as he is presented in Camden's edition, the first year of foundation produced a commencement of dissension among the teachers. The "old scholars," whom Grimbald found at Oxford (by which term we must, probably,

probably, understand the learned men assembled by Alfred from various religious institutions) disapproved of his laws and forms of reading. This difference of opinion remained within tolerable bounds for the term of three years; but then produced such violent effects that the king repaired in person to Oxford, and listened to the statement of both parties with much patience. He forbore to make any peremptory decision, but exhorted all the complainants to lay aside their disputes, and to live in brotherly concord. The pride of Grimbald was too great to allow of his attending to such mild admonitions. He retired to the monastery of Winchester; to which place he, shortly after, conveyed a cenotaph that he had caused to be prepared for himself, and had originally fixed in a vault under the chancel of St. Peter, at Oxford. In contempt of the injury sustained from these dissensions, literature, however, flourished to so eminent a degree under the fostering care of Alfred, that, before the end of his reign, he had the honourable pride of saying "that all his bishops' sees were filled by prelates of great learning, and every pulpit in England furnished with a good preacher." *

But, with the death of the great Alfred, the prosperity of his establishment for the dissemination of learning faded. Edward, his son and successor, though he had received a careful education, wanted the genius of his illustrious father. The progress of learning depends on political ease; and Edward was not able to preserve the independence of his country. The Danes entered England in successful multitudes; and that era which has been styled "the age of iron for its barbarism and wickedness, the age of lead for its dulness and stupidity, and the age of darkness for its blindness and ignorance," took place.

In the year 979, Oxford was burned to the ground; and, in 1002, the partially-renovated city experienced the same fate. Yet was the temper of the inhabitants so steady and persevering, that (with "the benevolence of nobles, and others affected to learning," as Wood asserts,) it soon was, in some measure, restored.

* Dr. Henry's Hist. Eng. Vol. IV. p. 55.

stored. But it revived only to encounter fresh disasters. In 1009, *Swein*, the Danish invader, again placed firebrands in the city: the assailants, however, departed before the havoc became general, and the flames were extinguished. A scene of horrible slaughter took place at Oxford in the year 1012. The Danes had, at this period, effected a partial settlement in various districts of England, and King *Ethelred*, in order to gratify revenge, and rid himself of the encroachers, by one blow of dreadful malignancy, forwarded letters into all parts, directing his subjects to sacrifice the Danes, without a solitary exception, on the day dedicated to the Feast of St. Brice. This order was executed with terrible fidelity at Oxford. No regard was paid to sex or dignity. Many of the wretched victims fled to the churches, in hope of sanctuary; but were there slain, without mercy, while they stood embracing the altars! Among those who fell was the Lady *Gunilda*, sister to Swein, King of Denmark, who had uniformly evinced friendship towards the English, and had been sent as a hostage on condition of peace, together with her husband, *Polingus!*

In consequence of this ferocious outrage, Swein entered the country in arms, and talked loudly of inflicting sanguinary vengeance; but, in regard to Oxford, it appears that he only frightened the people into a surrender, and took pledges of them. King Ethelred had now become familiar with assassination; and he invited, three years after the general massacre, a large party of the Danes to a conference in the city scarce cleansed from the blood of their friends. On this occasion, Edric, Earl of Mercia, a brother-in-law, and creature of the king's, caused two of the Danish noblemen to be treacherously murdered. This injury the Danes endeavoured to revenge, but they were overpowered; and some of them, taking shelter in St. Frid's church, were there burned.

During the successive struggles between the Saxons and the Danes Oxford often suffered severely; and, amid such brutal and vindictive contests, it must necessarily be supposed that the in-

 terests

tirests of learning were quite disregarded. In fact, no author, though several have been mentioned who possessed considerable ingenuity, has been able to ascertain any prominent result accruing from those studies which many are willing to believe were still numerously attended. But, although the sordid and iron character of the ages, which shortly followed the bright reign of Alfred, suspended the tide of learning in its promising career, the city of Oxford progressively arose to much political consequence. King Edmund, surnamed *Ironside*, resided here; and was, unhappily, murdered in the city, November the 30th, 1016. *Canute*, not unjustly denominated *the Great*, maintained his court at Oxford for many years; and, in the year 1022, held a great council, at which time the *Laws of Edward* were first translated into Latin, and enjoined to all subjects, Danes as well as English. In 1026, the same monarch confirmed by his royal authority, in a Parliament held at Oxford, the Edicts of King Edgar. Harold, surnamed *Harefoot*, from his great agility in pedestrian exercises, likewise fixed his chief residence in the city. The ceremony of his coronation was performed here, and he breathed his last at this favoured place of regal abode, though his remains were carried for interment to Westminster. William, styled the Conqueror, had not long been crowned at Westminster, when he made a progress towards the north, for the purpose of intimidating such of his new subjects as were unwilling to receive the destroyer of the brave but impetuous Harold for their sovereign. In the course of this progress, William approached Oxford; but the inhabitants closed their gates, and denied him entrance. He immediately resorted to force; and, having stormed the city, speedily gained admittance. The reign of William forms an important era in the History of Oxford; and the survey made by order of that king affords the reader so interesting an opportunity of drawing a comparative analysis between the precise state of the city at that period, and its population and wealth in succeeding ages, that it appears desirable to present

the account, without abridgement, as it stands in the Record of Domesday:—

"*Oxenefordscire (Oxfordshire.)*

[*Orig.* 154, *a.* 1.]

"In the time of King Edward, Oxeneford (Oxford) paid, for toll and gable, and all other customs, yearly to the king, twenty pounds, and six sextaries of honey. But to Earl Algar, ten pounds, his mill being added, which he had within (*infra*) the city.

"When the king went on an expedition, twenty burgesses went with him, for all the others; or they paid twenty pounds to the king that all might be free. Now, *Oxeneford* (Oxford) pays sixty pounds by tale, of twenty pence in the ore.

"In the town itself, as well within the walls as without, there are two hundred and forty three houses, paying the tax; and, besides these, there are five hundred houses, save twenty-two, so waste and decayed that they cannot pay the tax.

"The king has twenty mural mansions, which were Earl Algar's, in King Edward's time, paying then, and now, fourteen shillings, save two-pence. And he has one mansion, paying six-pence, belonging to *Scipton* (Shipton;) and another of fourpence, belonging to *Blochesham* (Bloxham;) and a third, paying thirty-pence, belonging to *Riseberge* (Risborough;) and two others of four-pence, belonging to *Twiforde* (Twyford) in Buckinghamshire; one of these is waste. They are called mural mansions, because, if it be necessary, and the king command it, they repair the walls.

"To the lands which Earl Aubery held belongs one church and three mansions; two of these, paying twenty-eight pence, lie to the church of St. Mary; and the third, paying five shillings, lies to *Bureford* (Burford.)

To

"To the lands which Earl William held belong nine mansions, paying seven shillings. Three of these are waste.

"The Archbishop of Canterbury has seven mansions; they pay thirty-eight pence. Four of these are waste.

"The Bishop of Winchester has nine mansions; they pay sixty-two pence. Three of these are waste.

"The Bishop of Baieux has eighteen mansions, which pay thirteen shillings and four-pence. Four of these are waste. The Bishop of Lincoln has thirty mansions, paying eighteen shillings and sixpence, sixteen of which are waste. The Bishop of Constance has two mansions, paying fourteen-pence, and the Bishop of Hereford has three mansions, paying thirteen-pence. One of them is waste.

"The Abbot of St. Edmund's has one mansion, paying sixpence, belonging to *Teutone* (Tainton.) The Abbot of Abingdon fourteen mansions, paying seven shillings and three pence; eight of which are waste; and the Abbot of Eglesham has one church, and thirteen mansions, paying nine shillings. Seven of these are waste.

"The Earl of Moreton has ten mansions; they pay three shillings. They are all waste, except one.

"Earl Hugh has seven mansions; they pay five shillings and eight-pence. Four of these are waste.

"The Earl of Evreux (Ebroicensis) has one waste mansion, and it pays nothing.

"Henry de Ferieres has two mansions, paying five shillings.

"William Pevrel has four mansions, paying seventeen-pence. Two of these are waste.

"Edward the sheriff, two mansions, paying five shillings.

"Ernulf de Hesding three mansions, paying eighteen-pence. One of these is waste.

"Berenger de Todeni, one mansion paying sixpence.

"Milo Crispin, two mansions, paying twelve-pence.

"Richard de Curci, two mansions, paying nineteen-pence.

"Robert de Oilgi, twelve mansions, paying sixty-four pence. Four of these are waste.

"Roger de Ivri, fifteen mansions, paying twenty shillings and four-pence. Six of these are waste.

"Rannulf Flammard, one mansion, paying nothing.

"Wido de Reinbodcurth, two mansions, paying twenty-pence.

"Walter Gifard, seventeen mansions, paying twenty-two shillings. Seven of these are waste. The predecessor of Walter had one of these, of the gift of King Edward, out of eight virgates which paid customary payments in King Edward's time.

"Jernio has one mansion, paying sixpence, belonging to *Hamtone* (Hampton.)

"The son of Manasse has one mansion; it pays four-pence to *Biscesdone* (Bletchington.)

"All these above-written hold the aforesaid mansions free, because they repair the walls.

"All the mansions which are called mural, were, in King Edward's time, free from all customary payments, except expedition, and reparation of the walls.

"The priests of St. Michael's have two mansions, paying fifty-two pence. [Orig. 154, a. 2.]

"The canons of St. Fridesuid have fifteen mansions, paying eleven shillings. Eight of these are waste.

"Coleman had, during his life, three mansions of three shillings and eight-pence.

"William has one of twenty-pence. Spracheling, one mansion, which pays nothing.

"Wluui, the fisherman, one mansion of thirty-two pence.

"Aluuin has one mansion of thirty-seven pence. Three of these are waste.

"Edric, one mansion which pays nothing. Harding and Leveva, nine mansions paying twelve shillings. Four of these are waste.

"Ailric, one mansion, which pays nothing. Dereman one mansion

mansion of twelvepence. Segrim one mansion of sixteen-pence. Another Segrim, one mansion of two shillings. Smeuuin, one mansion, which pays nothing. Goldwin, one mansion which pays nothing. Eddid, one mansion which pays nothing. Suetman, one mansion of eight-pence. Seuui, one mansion which pays nothing. Loveva, one waste mansion, of ten-pence in King Edward's time. Alveva, one mansion of ten-pence. Aluuard, one mansion of ten-pence. Aluuin, one waste mansion. Brictred and Dermas, one mansion of sixteen-pence. Aluui, one mansion, from which he has nothing. Dereuuen, one mansion of sixpence. Aluuin, the priest, one waste mansion which pays nothing. Leuric, one, likewise paying nothing. Wluric, one waste mansion; and yet, if necessary, it repairs the wall. Suetman, a moneyer, one free house, paying forty-pence. Goduin, one; Vlmar, one; Goderun, one; Godric, one; Aluui, one; these five paying nothing. Suetman has two mural mansions; they pay three shillings. Another Suetman, one free mansion, for the same service, and he has nine-pence. Sauuold, nine mansions; they pay thirteen shillings. Six of these are waste. Lodouuin one house in which he resides, free for the wall. Segrim, three free houses of sixty-four pence. One of these is waste. Aluuin, one house, free for repairing the wall; from this he has thirty-two pence a year. And if, while the wall is necessary, it is not renewed by him who ought to do it, he shall pay forty shillings to the king, or lose his house.

"All the burgesses of Oxford have common of pasture without the walls, paying six shillings and eight-pence." *

The book called Domesday was finished in the 20th year of William I. and the extract now made from the translation of it evinces the severity with which the Conqueror treated the refractory

* Bawdwen's Translation of Domesday, in regard to this county. A translation so judiciously executed of a work so interesting in its nature, that it cannot fail to be deemed a valuable acquisition by all who are connected with property in Oxfordshire, or are curious concerning the history of that district.

fractory inhabitants of Oxford. In the time of King Edward, when the city was comparatively in a flourishing state, it only paid to the Crown twenty pounds, and six measures, or sextaries, of honey; but, now that out of 721 houses, only 243 were able to pay the tax, it was compelled to render thrice that sum. It will, likewise, be obvious, that William had bestowed on his Norman favourites many extensive possessions, to the disposal of which he could have no other right than that of Conquest.

That Oxford, though in a dilapidated condition, had recently been a populous place seems evident from the number of "mansions" named in the Survey; but whether those mansions were originally tenanted by students, or by the nobility attendant on the sovereigns who held their court in the city, is not readily to be ascertained. Two circumstances are painfully apparent:—the boisterous temper of the period had driven learning from one of her most favoured seats; and, when neither king nor muse resided with her, Oxford was no longer able to maintain her consequence in the list of cities.

The jealousy with which William the First continued to regard his new subjects in Oxford, induced him to bestow the government of that place on *Robert de Oilgi*, a Norman, with permission to build and fortify a castle. This structure stood on the west side of the city, and occupied the site of the present county gaol. The quarrel between the Conqueror and the city of Oxford was a deep injury to the interest of the learned seminaries instituted by Alfred. The neglect with which he treated the Oxford students was the more pointed and lamentable, as he is known to have been a munificent friend to many of the learned, and to have sedulously fostered the study of the Latin language.

Robert de Oilgi, the Norman governor appointed by William, built, in conjunction with his friend *Roger de Ivri*, a chapel, or church, dedicated to St. George, within the walls of his new and formidable castle. From the ancient statutes of this chapel it appears that students were permitted to resort there by the foun-

ders*; and thus, towards the latter part of William's reign, literature made some faint efforts to re-establish herself in haunts so genial.

In the year 1139, the bold usurper, King Stephen, held a great council at Oxford, to which he invited the Bishop of Lincoln and his two nephews, whom he, with justice, suspected of disaffection. While the court remained at Oxford a quarrel, designedly raised as some contemporary historians assert, took place between the servants of the Earl of Britanny and those of one of the bishop's nephews, about their lodgings (the usual subject of altercation when animosity existed;) and several persons, of some consequence, were killed. The king affected to be indignant at this violation of order within the pales of the court, and commanded the bishop, and all his friends, to be apprehended. The bishop of Ely, who had "lodged without the town," made his escape; but the two Bishops of Salisbury and Lincoln, with several others, were placed in confinement.

In the course of these calamities to which England was subjected by the disputes between Stephen and the Empress Maud, the latter once fixed her residence in the castle of Oxford. Stephen advanced with so much secresy that the garrison was ill-prepared for defence; but, still, the strength of the castle was calculated to withstand a formidable assault. This bulwark was immediately invested by the king, "who swore a solemn oath that he would not raise the siege till he had taken his rival prisoner. When the siege had continued three months, and the garrison was reduced to the last extremity, by famine and the incessant attacks of the enemy, the Empress made her escape from im-

* "Frequent mention is made of the fellows and tutors, and, also, of the commoners and others therein residing, in which statute there is this provision made; that all the clerks, *i. e.* the scholars, should eat and drink in the presence of some one of the canons, which canons were afterwards, in King Stephen's reign, translated from hence to Osney Abbey, and the house itself, after, became an hostel, or inn, for secular students, subject to the jurisdiction of the Chancellor of the University."—Ayliffe, Vol. I. p. 22.

impending ruin, in a manner more surprising than any of her former escapes from Arundel, London, or Winchester. The river being frozen over, and the ground covered with snow, she dressed herself and three trusty knights in white; and issuing, silently, about midnight, at a postern of the castle, passed all the enemy's centinels unobserved, travelled on foot to Abingdon, and from thence, on horseback, to Wallingford." * The castle surrendered the morning after the escape of the Empress.

In 1154, a council was held at Oxford, in which it was agreed that Stephen should continue to wear the Crown during life; but that Prince Henry (son to the Empress Maud, and, afterwards, King Henry II.) should succeed to the throne at his decease.

Henry II. held several councils at Oxford; and, in the year 1177, the princes and chief Lords of Wales did homage to him, in the city, for their territories and estates; at which time he declared his youngest son, Prince John, Lord of Ireland, and distributed the conquered parts of that country among the chief of his barons. In the year 1185, a Parliament was assembled here. Henry II. resided, through a great part of his reign, in the palace of *Beaumont*, which had been built by Henry I. in the north suburbs; and, within the walls of that structure, was born his courageous son, Richard I. This "Lion-hearted king" appears to have held one council in the palace which descended to him from his accomplished, but weakly-amourous father.

During these periods the University was progressively increasing in consequence and estimation. Although the students were dispersed by the siege which took place in the reign of Stephen, they shortly re-assembled, and were fortunate in finding tutors eminent in every branch of learning, but particularly so in that of civil law.

Henry II. was a great patron of letters, and the buildings for the reception of scholars were much enlarged in size, and increased in number, while he sat on the throne, though an accidental fire committed great ravages in the city and among the halls.

* Henry, Vol. V. p. 108, &c.

halls *. Richard I. never failed to cherish a filial affection for his native place, and he granted to Oxford so many privileges that, in his reign, it is said "to have become a rival to the University of Paris." If we consider the long prosperity which the Parisian colleges had enjoyed, the full value of this observation will be apparent.

King John held many of those feasts, which formed the injudicious solaces of his troubled hours, in the Palace of Beaumont; and he had a meeting with the indignant barons in the neighbourhood of Oxford, not more than two months before he was compelled to sign the *Great Charter*.

During the early part of King John's reign the University was in so flourishing a condition, that the number of scholars is stated to have been not less than 3000. But an unfortunate occurrence, in the year 1209, interrupted the progress of science, and threatened the entire destruction of Oxford as a seat of learning. A student, engaged in thoughtless diversion, accidentally killed a woman belonging to the city, and was so imprudent as immediately to fly from expostulation. A band of citizens, with the mayor at their head, and attended by an immense number of mob, surrounded the hall to which the unfortunate scholar belonged, and demanded the person of the offender. On being informed that he was absent, this lawless multitude seized three of the students who were entirely unconnected with the transaction, and obtained an order from the weak king (whose dislike for the clergy is well known) to put the innocent persons to death: an order which, it may be supposed, they were not slow in obeying. The scholars were so justly enraged by this treatment that they quitted Oxford, and retired some to Cambridge, some to Reading, and others to Maidstone, in Kent.

The

* As the great fire of London produced eventual benefit, in regard to the improvement of the city, so did this conflagration respecting Oxford. Before 1190, all the halls and houses of Oxford had been built of wood, and covered with straw. After the fire most of the renewed buildings were composed of stone, and many were covered with tiles or lead.

The offended students were not content with retreat, but applied to the Pope, who laid the city under an interdict, and discharged all Professors from teaching in it. This step effectually humbled the citizens, and a deputation of their most respectable class waited on the Pope's legate, who was then at Westminster, to acknowledge their rashness, and request mercy. The legate (Nicholas, Bishop of Tusculum,) granted their petition only on the most humiliating conditions. They were enjoined, by way of penance, to "go to all the city churches, with whips in their hands, bare-footed and in their shirts, and there pray the benefit of absolution from every parish priest, repeating the penitential psalm; and to pay a mark of silver, per annum, to the students of the hall peculiarly injured." * They were commanded, likewise, to entertain, on every recurrence of the day dedicated to St. Nicholas, 100 poor scholars "honestis Refectionibus," the Abbot of Evesham yearly paying 16 shillings towards the festival expense.

Henry III. occasionally resided at Oxford, and held there many Parliaments and Councils. In the reign of this king the University flourished to an unexampled degree, if the number of students may be received as a criterion †. So great, indeed, now became its consequence, that it claims priority in historical mention, even while the city must be considered in a regal capacity.

Although the University was fairly entitled to derive its chief boast from the celebrity of its teachers, it certainly gained much popular credit from the circumstance of not less than one thousand students quitting, at this time, the learned institution of Paris, and repairing to Oxford for instruction. But these foreign scholars introduced so dangerous a levity of manners, that the Pope deemed it necessary to send his legate, for the purpose of reforming

* This perpetuation of humility was afterwards found so painful that the townsmen gave a portion of land, called "Middenham, near Oxford, on condition that the Abbot of Osney did yearly pay to the P. of St. Frideswide, a mark, to the use of the University, for this grant."

† Some writers affirm that the number was not less than 15,000.

ing "certain flagrant corruptions of the place." The Legate was, at first, treated with much affected civility; but an occasion for quarrel was soon found, and he would probably have been sacrificed on the spot, had he not hidden himself in a belfry, from the rage of the assailants. This tumult was speedily appeased; though not without the exercise of some strong measures; but the number of students was infinitely too great at this period for a maintenance of due subordination.* They divided themselves into parties, among which the north and south countrymen were the most violent, and their quarrels were harassing and perpetual. According to the rude temper of the age these disputes were not settled, as became academics, by force of argument, but, regularly, by dint of blows; and, in many instances, the adverse parties marshalled themselves in formal battle array. The peace of the city was so frequently endangered by these commotions, that the king judged it expedient to add to the civil power two aldermen and eight burgesses-assistant, together with two bailiffs.

This great assemblage of pupils from petty and intestine broils appears to have acquired a disposition for political interference. When Prince Edward, "returning from Paris, marched with an army towards Wales, and coming to Oxford in his way, was, by the burghers, forbid entrance, on occasion of the tumults now prevailing among the barons," he quartered his soldiers in the adjacent villages, and "lodged himself, that night, at the royal palace in Magdalen parish, the next morning proceeding on his intended journey; but the scholars, who were shut into the town, being desirous to meet and salute that prince whom they loved so much, first assembled about *Smith-gate*, and demanded to be let

* So inconveniently large was the concourse of scholars in this reign, that the king "granted leave to such of the masters and students, as pleased, to go to Northampton, and erect schools, and profess the liberal arts and sciences there; and that they might be received with greater benignity, he commanded the magistrates of Northampton to treat them with humanity, and provide them with all necessaries."

let into the fields. Being denied this by one of the bailiffs, they returned to their hostels for arms, and broke open the gate; whereupon the mayor arrested many of them; and on the Chancellor's request was so far from releasing those whom he had committed to prison, that he ordered the citizens to bring out their banners, and display them in the midst of the street; and embattling them, commanded a sudden onset on the rest of the scholars remaining in the town; and much bloodshed had been committed, had not a scholar, by the sound of the school's-bell in St. Mary's church, given notice of the danger that threatened the students, then at dinner. On this alarm they straightways armed, and went out to meet their assailants, and, in joined battle, courageously subdued and put the town's-men to flight."*

In consequence of this tumult the king, who was on the eve of holding a Parliament in Oxford, required the students to retire from the city until the sitting of the Parliament was at an end. The chief part of the scholars, accordingly, repaired to Northampton; but here they were, unfortunately, implicated in a fresh scene of disturbance. The king was now engaged in a contest with the barons, and the insurgent nobles fortified themselves at Northampton, to which place the king laid siege. The scholars, probably offended by their late removal, joined with the nobility, and repaired to arms under their own standard. The conspicuous gallantry with which they fought increased the anger of the king; and when Northampton was subdued, he is said to have been much inclined to proceed to extremities with the former subjects of his particular care, had he not been restrained by prudential motives.

From the boisterous temper evinced by the scholars on these occasions, the reader will possibly agree with Archbishop Potter†, in supposing that, though the number of students was so imposingly great, the real votaries of learning were comparatively few. Yet among this latter class, small by comparison, were men highly eminent in the fashionable literature of the age, which

* Ayliffe, Vol. I. p. 68.

† Pointer's Oxoniensis Academia, p. 9.

which, however, was curious rather than profitable, and sophistical rather than satisfactory.

But the reign of Henry III. will be ever memorable in the annals of the University, on account of an important acquisition of private patronage which took place in the latter years of that king. We have seen that, in all former periods, the teachers and scholars lodged and studied in "mansions," or halls, which they rented from the citizens. This circumstance was injurious to the dignity of the University, and was productive of endless quarrels. The upper order of society is said to have been sordid, and insensible to the charm of letters in the time of Henry; yet it was within his reign, though that period of history drew speedily to a close, that some public-spirited persons determined to free the learned from the indignities of situation under which they laboured. To effectuate this object, these generous patrons purchased, or built, large houses, and permitted teachers to reside in them, and to receive students, without paying rent. The pursuit of learning was still so much confined to the subordinate walks of life, that many ingenious scholars, received into these houses, were but ill provided with books, and with the means of duly rewarding their preceptors. The early private patrons of science were as judicious as they were munificent, and they inculcated the propriety of wealthy persons presenting, or bequeathing, a convenient proportion of lands, tenements, or revenues, for the maintenance of the studious. By such progressive steps, the building and endowing of colleges supplanted the taste which had so long prevailed for the foundation of monastic structures.

Edward I. was so much occupied with his various wars, and so intent on schemes of political aggrandizement, that he wanted opportunity to pay frequent visits to his palace of Beaumont, and had not leisure to bestow much attention on the republic of letters. The history of the university affords little interest during his reign. The scholars appear to have been sufficiently disposed to intestine disagreement; but they were incited to a

 political

political semblance of cordiality by the continual disputes which occurred between the University and the Bishop of Lincoln, of whose diocese Oxford then formed a part. In the progress of this quarrel (which appears to have originated in the severe disposition of the bishop) the students often preferred bold remonstrances; and their mitred opponent was not backward in retorting by the penalties of excommunication. We gladly pass from the narration of such passionate and unprofitable circumstances, to observe that the literary character of the University maintained so high a station, even in this warlike reign, that the professors were emboldened to request the Pope's permission "for the Doctors and Masters of Oxford to become lecturers and regents in any university whatever, without any farther examination."

In the time of Edward II. the palace of Beaumont was entirely abandoned as a place of regal resort. This weak and misguided king appears to have granted the suit of every applicant from the University, with intentional kindness, but with a cruel want of consideration. In consequence, no evil was permanently redressed, while party-feuds were kept in a continual balance. In this reign, *John de Bristol*, a converted Jew, read Hebrew Lectures for many years at Oxford, with great applause, and had "a stipend settled on him by the Archbishop of Canterbury, by a tax of a halfpenny per mark from every ecclesiastical benefice throughout his province."

The University of Oxford had the honour of affording education to King Edward III. and that monarch retained a uniform veneration for the place in which his juvenile hours had passed. So native was his affection towards the neighbourhood, that he chose Woodstock for his chief residence, when, at the early age of sixteen, he was married to Philippa of Hainault. It appears probable that Oxford would have possessed the distinction of providing him with a palace, had there not existed some repulsive local circumstances. Most of the streets and lanes within the city were at this time extremely narrow, and the great concourse

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of students caused all these to be crowded with inhabitants. The civil power was blamably lax in regard to the enforcement of some wholesome statutes which had been made concerning cleanliness, and other necessary preventions of disease. Cattle of all sorts were slaughtered within the walls, and the offal, together with other dirt and offensive matter, was suffered to lie in heaps in the narrow and populous lanes.* Epidemic diseases of the most destructive nature consequently ensued. The plague made dreadful ravages; and not only was the city for a long time carefully avoided by all strangers of consequence, but the students were often obliged to disperse, and seek security in the free air of more open districts. The king issued various edicts calculated to alleviate this grievance; but it was with great difficulty that the townspeople could be persuaded to adopt measures well suited to their own preservation. In the midst of ambitious schemes, so vast and so ably executed, that the record of them has afforded a theme of wonder to succeeding ages, the third Edward found leisure to bestow a watchful and paternal attention on his favourite University. His liberality was unceasing; and his interference was the more valuable, because while he progressively added to the power of the superior officers, he took judicious means of increasing the security and consequence of the students. But to the ancient animosity arising from difference of country, as to the north and south, fresh subjects of contention were now added. The learning of the day had become deeper, though it still had not, generally, penetrated far. The mind was universally brought into exercise, through all ranges of scholars; but its efforts were too frequently ill directed. In consequence, various disputes on doctrinal questions, nearly the whole of which

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* Dr. Plot observes, that, "moreover, about these times, the Isis and Cherwell, through the carelessness of the townsmen, being filled with mud, and the common shores by this means stopped, did cause the ascent of malignant vapours, whenever there happened to be a flood. Great part of the waters which could not timely pass away, stagnated in the lower meadows, and increased the noxious putrid streams." Nat. Hist. p. 24.

were unconnected with the great fundamentals of religion, divided the University into different parties, not one of which recollected that urbanity should form the basis of disputation. During the height of the tumults produced by these dissensions, a great body of the students retired to Stamford, in Lincolnshire. So numerous were the seceders at this juncture, that it was deemed expedient for the king to write to the sheriff of Lincoln, commanding him to force the objectionable scholars from the place of their retirement; and a statute was made, obliging every candidate for a degree, to "swear never to read, nor to hear a reader, at Stamford, as a university."

In 1349, so dreadful a plague prevailed, that the schools were shut up, "and there were scarce enough left in the city to bury the dead." Above a fourth part of the scholars died during this melancholy period; and so great was the panic created, that many of the townsmen were allowed to reside in the vacated halls.*

The studies at Oxford were resumed only by slow degrees; and with returning health the spirit of disagreement was revived. The remainder of Edward's reign is replete with quarrels between the scholars, the townsmen, and the preaching friars. From these we pass to observe that several parliaments and councils were held in the city by Richard II. It was nearly at this period that a bright luminary appeared in the University, and shed such rays as were calculated to illumine the most distant ages. We allude to Dr. Wickliffe, the Father of the Reformers. This eminent man was the first warden of Canterbury College; and it was at Oxford that he read those Lectures of Divinity which are known to have laid the foundation of so great a change in

* Some idea of the extent of mortality among the ecclesiastics on this occasion may be acquired from the following passage in *Knighton*:—"Before this plague you might have hired a curate for four or five marks a year, or for two marks and his board; but, after it, you could hardly find a clergyman who would accept of a vicarage of twenty marks, or twenty pounds a year."

in religious opinion. His doctrines were no sooner divulged, than they were approved by the judicious, and received with enthusiasm by that large proportion of the University which had felt injured in consequence of the Pope's interference with the nomination to vacant benefices, or had been affronted by the assumptions of the preaching Friars. The strong sentiment which prevailed at Oxford in favour of Wickliffe is evident from the following circumstance:—"Pope Gregory XI. hearing of the new tenets, by a bull in the sixth year of his papacy issued his fulmination against the same, severely reproving the Chancellor's neglect in suffering this heresy to diffuse itself; yet the proctors, and many of the masters, were in doubt whether they should receive, or reject, this bull with contempt, as a new and unheard of thing."

But although the temper of the University was thus favourable to the cause of truth at this important era, the general interests of learning do not appear to have been by any means in a flourishing state. The number of students was so small, that many of the halls and schools (as appears by their rent-rolls) were let for purposes remote from the dissemination of letters. Yet the court liberally patronized the University, and several new foundations took place during the reign of Richard. That the laws enforcing cleanliness throughout the city had greatly succeeded in warding off pestilential diseases is evident from the circumstance already mentioned, of several Parliaments and Councils having been summoned to meet at Oxford by this king.

Although the novel tenets professed by Wickliffe inculcated a habit of discussion among all classes, and peculiarly stimulated the researches of the learned, the ages which immediately followed his appearance were dull and sordid to a lamentable degree. The interests of religion and learning were made subordinate to state-policy and party-ambition. The annals of the University are necessarily so barren during these boisterous periods, that we shall gladly hasten over the narration, in order to gain the opportunity

tunity of dwelling at some length on the more interesting eras which are to succeed.

A strong predilection to *Lollardy*, as the doctrines of Wickliffe were then termed, pervaded the University during the reign of Henry IV. Arundel, Archbishop of Canterbury, most vigorously prosecuted those suspected of heresy; and compelled the friends of reformation to abstain from an open delivery of their opinions; but such was the dignity of spirit prevailing at Oxford, that many of Wickliffe's friends sent letters to the bishop, couched in the bitterest language of reproach, and at length all lectures were suspended, the students retired into the country, and a determination was made to dissolve the University. This was not a mere idle threat, but was viewed in so serious a light by the court, that the King condescended to write letters, requesting that the discontented members would lay their purpose aside.

King Henry V. had been partly educated at Oxford, and he retained through life a fondness for the University. Henry, though far from learned, was fond of books; and, in his more mature years, took pleasure in conversing with men of letters. Had his reign been less warlike, or prolonged to a greater extent, he would probably have proved a useful and active patron to literature in general, and to the University of Oxford in particular. The same severity was exercised in this as in the preceding reign, respecting freedom of religious discussion; yet the University wore somewhat of a flourishing aspect as far as regarded the number of the students. If Henry had possessed leisure, he intended to amend the statutes of the University, and to found a College for the reception of strangers.

Henry VI. professed much affection for Oxford; but his favour communicated no solid benefit. The finances of the University were low, even to penury, during his reign; and the scholars were few in number. Learning (particularly that connected with the Latin language) fell to decay, and a general system of bribery and peculation prevailed in the church. Benefices were even disposed of, for interested considerations, to persons not in

holy orders; while men of ancient and honourable standing in the University were suffered to remain unnoticed in the seclusion of their respective colleges.

Thus circumstanced, the collegiates had not cause for particular regret when the accession of the house of York placed a more active monarch on the throne. Edward IV. to evince his anxiety for the encouragement of literature, assumed the title of "Protector of the University," and, on many occasions, proved a zealous friend. But the havoc committed among noble and affluent families by the rage of civil war, was long detrimental to the progress of refinement. This king honoured Oxford with a visit towards the conclusion of his reign.

Richard III. was much too wise and politic a prince to treat the University with neglect. He visited Oxford soon after his accession to regal power, and took many judicious steps for the advancement of literature, among which was a law allowing the University to "import or export books at pleasure." Peshall, in his brief History of the University, attributes the propriety of the latter part of this grant to "the superabundance of books in Oxford" at this juncture. But may we not more rationally presume that the allowance was intended to signify an entire freedom of press and liberty of discussion?

A dreadful pestilence, which raged for six weeks, and almost depopulated the city and colleges, ushered in the reign of the seventh Henry. Although, from various fortuitous circumstances, this period has the proud boast of fostering the revival of letters, the University of Oxford unhappily had little share in the glorious task. From the many discouraging particulars of the last century, genuine scholarship had become almost an obsolete character, in a professional point of view. The Greek language, because unknown, was affectedly held in contempt.* Collegiate discipline was relaxed to a dangerous degree, and intestine broils continually tormented the few who

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* The Anti-Grecians formed themselves into an association under the title of Trojans. The leader of the party took the name of Priam; and others called

were intent on profitable study. So strong were the existing prejudices, that when Erasmus, in the year 1498, repaired to Oxford for the purpose of teaching Greek, many leading characters thought proper to declaim against him in the schools, and to endeavour to ridicule both himself and the language which he wished to disseminate. The judicious few, however, perceived his merits; and the effects of his erudition are perceptible in a future and more honourable page of the university annals.

The instances of plague and pestilence throughout this reign are exceedingly numerous, the chief of which appear to be owing to the neglected state of the city. The channels communicating with the adjacent rivers were suffered to become choaked with dirt and filth, and all the wholesome statutes regarding interior cleanliness were disregarded.

The period during which Henry VIII. sat on the throne is highly consequential to the best interests of the University. Henry aspired to the character of a learned prince, and his example imparted a fashion to the nobility. The learned seminaries had been too long regarded with indifference, or shackled by Papal tyranny. They now recovered the native dignity of their character, and the curiosity is necessarily excited concerning the manner in which they would receive the great changes effected by high authority in the religious establishment.

Henry commenced his reign by confirming (as had been the custom with most of his predecessors) the charters of the University, which confirmation was shortly followed by the honor of a regal visit.* The munificence of Wolsey precluded, for many years, the necessity of the king's patronage. As an instance of the Cardinal's early veneration for Oxford, it must be observed, that

called themselves Hector, Paris, &c. By these devotees of ignorance the "Greeks" were abused, and often assaulted, in the public streets.

* During this visit the Queen (Catharine of Arragon) attended by Wolsey and the heads of the University, paid adoration at the shrine of St. Fridiswida.

that when he visited that place in 1518, he founded seven Lectures, for Theology, Civil Law, Physic, Philosophy, Mathematics, Greek, and Rhetoric.* His attention to the University was indeed unceasing. By his sedulous care the Greek language was at length received into estimation, and a taste for elegant learning, in all its branches, became general among those students who had hitherto devoted the whole of their talent to the quibbles of the schoolmen.

When the king was desirous to divorce Queen Catharine, he forwarded questions, touching the legality of such a measure, to Oxford. The University (strengthened, perhaps, in their repugnance by their attachment to the sentiments of Wolsey) suffered the proposition to remain unnoticed for three weeks. Three harsh and eager letters were received from the king before the respondents could determine on the nature of their reply. A committee of thirty-three Doctors and Bachelors of Law then framed an answer agreeably to the king's wishes, and affixed to it the University seal; but Wood says, that this decree was not obtained by a free suffrage, and that "all the menaces or arts of the king had proved ineffectual, if the *secret* committee had not taken the opportunity of a tempestuous night, as it were by stealth, to hold the convention."

Gratified by the favourably reply to his momentous question, the king speedily visited Oxford. He evidently had an interest in gaining favour with the scholars; for, in little more than a twelvemonth, he declared himself "Head of the Church," and again sent to take the sense of the University. The present question met with less opposition than the former. The principles of Luther had long been favourably received among the majority of students of all classes. Thirty doctors were assigned to the discussion of the proposed case, and they promptly returned an answer perfectly in accordance with the king's desire.

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* These Lectures were received with so much zealous approbation, that the Regent Masters preferred a supplication that they might not be obliged to read above half an hour, in order that they might have time to be present.

An examination then took place of the whole University, man by man, and the decision of the thirty doctors was popularly ratified.

But the intentions of Henry, in regard to the spoliation of the church, were soon perceived by the members of the University, and the docility of their acquiescence was naturally at an end. So deep, though politically moderate, was the sentiment of repugnance evinced on several occasions, that a bishop publicly asserted, in a meeting of Parliament, "that the Universities were much decayed of late, wherein all things were carried by young men, whose judgments were not to be relied on."

The University now presented a dreary spectacle. Pestilence did much in driving the scholars from their studies; but an anticipation of the calamities to which the church would be subjected did more. Of the students who remained a great portion applied to the study of physic, and some to civil offices, or mechanical employs. But this residue was small. "Of the inceptors," according to Peshall, "in the year 1546, there occur only ten in arts, and three in divinity and law; whence the University held not a convocation from February to September, nor afforded clergy enough for the care of the churches."

Although the interests of Oxford, as a learned seminary, were for a time injured by the wound inflicted on the ecclesiastical function, yet it must ever be remembered that the pursuits of literature were first conducted into proper channels during this splendid but violent reign. The University was likewise enriched by private patronage of the most munificent description. Besides Cardinal Wolsey's foundation, since called Christ Church, there were founded in the time of Henry VIII. the two noble colleges termed Brazen-nose and Corpus Christi.

As some atonement for the havoc made in religious houses, (in conjunction with other motives partaking more of policy than retribution,) this king erected bishop's sees on the ruin of several of the most opulent monasteries, and appropriated their revenues to the maintenance of the new prelates. Among the spoliated

spoliated edifices so recompensed was the *Abbey of Osceney*, contiguous to Oxford, which, in 1542, was converted into a cathedral church, and the county of Oxford was made a diocese.* When Henry matured the foundation of Cardinal Wolsey, and undertook the patronage of the College, on which he was desirous of bestowing his own title, he translated the cathedral church from Osceney thither; and from this period only it is obvious that Oxford is strictly entitled to the name of city.

The blow anticipated by the churchmen fell with overwhelming weight in the reign of Edward VI. The first act of Edward's counsellors (for to them must be attributed the most important actions of his reign) was a gross violation of the University statutes, since it directed that "no gownsmen should concern themselves at the election of any president, fellow, or scholar, or do any thing to oppose the visitation now ordered by the king."

This threatened visitation shortly took place, and the state of the Oxonians was found to be so far from prosperous, that the visitors, at one time, entertained an intention of reducing all the colleges into one, on account of the narrowness of their revenues. But this intention they were persuaded to abandon, as it was understood that the king had determined to restore to the University several rectories and estates lately taken from them. They, however, entirely changed the form of University government, and gave the name of Edward's Statutes to the new code which they fabricated, a code that remained in force until Archbishop Laud introduced a better model.

The delegates of Edward's authority evinced a violence of temper by no means likely to reconcile the jarring interests of religion, or to recommend the opinions of their superiors among the judicious and liberal. They either directed or permitted the college libraries to be plundered; and many rare manuscripts which (if we may believe *Wood*) contained no hint of superstitious

* The former rooms of the Abbot and Monks of Osceney were now inhabited by prebendaries and seculars. The Bishop resided in Gloucester (now Worcester) College.

tious doctrines they consigned to the flames, merely because they had been composed by the votaries of the "old learning."*

Indignant at this treatment the chief of the students abandoned the University. The schools now possessed but sixteen determing bachelors; and, though 1015 names appeared on the books, much the larger portion had quitted Oxford for ever.

The violence of Edward's advisers and delegates was as impolitic as it was illiberal; for they ought to have foreseen the danger of a change in court-sentiments, and should have endeavoured to convince by argument rather than to terrify by injunction, lest they should only be collecting faggots for their own destruction.

Shortly after Mary succeeded to the Crown she abrogated the oaths which had been lately administered concerning the rejection of the Pope's authority. Many academics now returned, and the members of Magdalen College had the "queen's command to resume their studies where the professors of His Holiness should not long suffer the grievous injuries they had endured." †

Another *visitation* now took place, under the direction of Gardiner, Bishop of Winchester, a man so much inclined by temper and religious persuasions to harsh measures, that, assuredly, it was injudicious to treat his delegates with disdain, or to furnish him with the resemblance of an excuse for resorting to acts of violence. An ill-judging, or intemperate friend is well known to be virtually the worst of foes. Instead of displaying the superiority of the Reformer's tenets by a mild and dignified air of conscious truth, one of the students, hostile to the court-delegates, snatched the host out of the pyx at evening prayer, rent it with his

* More than a waggon load of manuscripts were taken from Merton College, most of which treated of Divinity, Astronomy, and Mathematics, and were written by members of that Society. The greater part of these were destroyed, but many were preserved by a Dutch bookseller, resident in St. Mary's, and are yet extant in the Bodleian library.

† Reg. Coll. Magd. &c.

his hands, and trampled on it with his feet; and another, openly in Magdalen choir, forced the censer from the hands of the person who was about to offer incense.

A melancholy scene now took place in Oxford. Archbishop Cranmer, with the Bishops of London and Worcester, Ridley and Latimer, were referred thither, for the alledged purpose of entering into a disputation with the University. The result of the controversy might be easily anticipated. The court knew that the bishops would prove inflexible, and the friends of the accused were well aware that no preponderance of argument could prevent their condemnation. Yet it was necessary to the repute of the Romish party that the University-disputants should be men of controversial ability. So barren was Oxford at this time of persons skilled in the "old learning," that Bishop Gardiner deemed it prudent to request aid from the sister-University of Cambridge. In after-ages of a brighter character the University of Oxford has felt cause to be proud of this penury of superstitious talent. After several meetings in St. Mary's chapel the Bishops of London and Worcester were excommunicated and condemned. Their execution, in the highway at the front of Baliol College, soon took place. Archbishop Cranmer was reserved for a more tedious fate; for it seems that the prosecutors, in their eagerness, had hitherto overlooked the necessity of the Pope's concurrence.

Nearly five months elapsed before an interchange with His Holiness could take place. When the messenger returned from Rome Cranmer's sufferings drew to their close; but the barbarous spirit of the times caused his last hours to be of the most afflicting nature. He was taken before Bishops Bonner and Thilby at Christ church cathedral, who caused him, with cruel mockery, to be clad in pontifical robes made of canvas; and they placed a mimic crosier in his hand, and mitre on his head. He was then stripped, with much formality, of these tokens of former dignity, and ordered to prepare for the stake. It was intended that a sermon

sermon should be preached on the spot of his last agony, but the day proved wet and stormy, and the sermon was therefore preached in St. Mary's church. In this sacred place he repeated his firm belief in what he professed, and especially "recanted that to which he had before put his hand." He then endeavoured to say more; but, according to the historians of the era, the chief persons present cried, "Stop the Heretic's mouth, and take him away!" on which the officers pulled him down, and led him to the stake. He surrendered his breath on the same spot with the Bishops of London and Worcester, the centre of the highway in the front of Baliol College.

It may be proper to observe, that several persons of consideration were sent by the court to be present at the execution, *for fear that any tumult should arise among the citizens of Oxford, in consequence of the archbishop's death.*

According to Wood (a writer by no means inclined to throw unnecessary obloquy on a Roman Catholic period) the University was in a drooping state during the reign of Mary. "The ingenious arts were held in contempt! The divinity school was seldom opened, and the stipend of Queen Margaret's lecture converted to the use of repairing the schools. For sermons, was scarcely one in a month. Public lecturers, through idleness, or insufficiency, seldom performed their offices. The Greek tongue fell into its old decay; and, in general, was such a contempt of learning and disuse, that there was no appearance of, or was a way left to, the miserable arts. For six years there were only three inceptors in divinity, eleven in civil law, in physic six.—Masters of Arts one year but eighteen, another nineteen, another twenty-five, and another twenty-seven."

Yet it is certain that some learned men were produced by Oxford at this period, and the queen (except as to peculiarity of religious tenet) treated the interests of the University with undeviating consideration.

A brighter era succeeded. The reign of Elizabeth restored confidence

confidence to all classes; and the queen was too thoroughly acquainted with the circumstances that lead to the well-being of a state to look with indifference on the seminaries of the learned.

The equanimity of this sovereign was evident in the deliberation with which she effected a change in the establishment of the University. The rage of party was high, and several letters were sent from the Protestants in Oxford, requesting the interference of the queen; but it was not until a twelvemonth after her inauguration that she delegated persons to examine into the state of the different colleges; and these she required "to use all tenderness upon the occasion." The objectionable individuals were then deprived of place, or induced to resign. Only two (the Dean of Christ Church, and the warden of Merton,) were inclined to disallow the power of the delegates; and these were imprisoned with lenity; the latter being placed in the hands of the queen herself at Hampton Court.

But the shock occasioned by the frequent changes in religion, and the consequent uncertainty of ecclesiastical provision for students, was not to be quickly overcome. In the year 1560, not one person performed theological exercises in the schools, and only one in civil law, and three in physic. In the same year no divine, legist, or physician, stood for his degree. When Queen Elizabeth, in 1563, issued an edict declaratory of certain regulations concerning the delivery of sermons, there were only three University preachers in Oxford; and two of these shortly after retiring, the pulpit was supplied by any accidental declaimer who offered. Even laymen were not precluded. Mr. Taverner of Wood-Eaton (sheriff of Oxfordshire) *out of charity* mounted the pulpit, with a sword by his side, and his golden chain of office around his neck. This was the commencement of the sermon which he presumed to address to *academics*, and to which the academics of that day condescended to listen:—"Arriving at the Mount of St. Mary's, in the stony stage where I now stand, I have brought you some fine biscuits, baked in the oven of charity,

rity, carefully conserved for the chickens of the church, the sparrows of the spirit, and the sweet swallows of salvation." *

Very few years elapsed before the general serenity of the kingdom allowed leisure for study; and among the first proofs of a moderate clemency in ecclesiastical government may be noticed the flourishing condition of the University. In 1566, the queen visited Oxford; and the magnificence with which she was received, and the speeches delivered, and dramatic pieces performed, shew at once the affluence and talent of the respective collegiate establishments.

In the 13th of Elizabeth was passed "an Act for the incorporation of the two Universities." Disgusted with the superstition of the Romish church, the temper of the University now ran into an opposite extreme. The Earl of Leicester, their chancellor, was addicted to Calvinism, and Sir Francis Walsingham, first secretary of state, was notoriously a partizan of the *Cathari*, or Puritans. This latter personage instituted a theological lecture to be read three times a week. Under such patronage a sectarian spirit unavoidably gained ground; yet the eminent scholars in almost every liberal branch produced by Oxford at this juncture are sufficient vouchers for the thriving state of rational and manly learning.

The city was often visited by pestilence during the reign of Elizabeth. In the year 1577, occurred that fearful calamity termed *the Black Assize.* While the court sat on the trial of a Popish bookseller, accused of circulating offensive pamphlets, a sudden sickness seized nearly the whole of the persons present; and, within forty hours, upwards of 300 died, among whom were the lord chief baron of the Exchequer, the high sheriff of the county, several justices of the peace, and the chief of the jurors. The effect of the earthquake, in 1580, was severely felt at Oxford. The inhabitants quitted their houses, in excessive terror. "The very

* This sentence alone must be sufficient to prove that the foundation of the civil war was laid long before the ill-fated Charles assumed the sceptre.

very sparrows that had betaken themselves to roofs of the dwellings for shelter," says one writer, "suddenly fly out; the birds of the air settle on the ground, and the oxen low." Not any accident of consequence was, however, attendant on this emotion.

Queen Elizabeth favoured Oxford with a second visit in 1592.

In the reign of James I. those religious differences of which we have noticed the commencement, assumed a more formidable aspect. The Papists and Puritans, under various deceptive modifications, treated each other with the most bitter and open rancour. This hostility was the more dangerous to the state at large, as the students were now extremely numerous; and letters were so widely disseminated, that the insinuations of the respective parties found reception in the most remote corners of the kingdom. The ardour with which the controversy was maintained undoubtedly led to a depth of literary research; but still it caused a concentration of inquiry injurious to the solid interests of learning. Sir Henry Savile, in the preamble of the deed by which he annexes a salary to the mathematical and astronomical professorships in Oxford, says that geometry was almost totally abandoned and unknown.

King James resided at Oxford for some time, on account of the plague which raged so fatally at London; but the disorder was unhappily conveyed to the place of his retreat, and broke forth with such violence, that the scholars fled, and the citizens shut their shops in dismay. "Not a living creature," says Ayliffe, "besides nurses and corpse-bearers was to be seen in the streets, which were covered with grass even in the market-place." King James I. empowered the University to send two representatives to Parliament. The number on the books, in the year 1609, was 2254.

The plague still prevailing in London, Charles I. held a Parliament at Oxford in the early part of his reign. This short visit was only the precursor of a longer residence. The evils which had been so long in embryo now burst forth, and it was

found that the sword must finally settle the theological disputes in which the nation was plunged. The members of the University, who had been seen so lamentably divided among themselves when public tranquillity allowed time for recondite speculation, now proved that the principle was correct, though the imagination had been deluded. They were unanimous in professions of loyalty, and proved the sincerity of their assertions by presenting the whole of their plate to be melted for the king's use, on the occurrence of his first pressing exigency *. When Charles found it expedient to retire from London he chose Oxford for his place of abode; and in this city the chief of the royal family resided until their fortunes grew entirely desperate, and they were obliged to separate, never all to meet again on earth. The king had apartments prepared for him at Christ Church, and the Queen at Merton, between which colleges a private way was now opened for their accommodation through one of the canon's gardens. In the hall of Christ Church the king collected the fragments of his Parliament, and opened the momentous business of the season with a manly and judicious speech. The lords afterwards held their meetings in the upper schools, and the commons assembled in the convocation house.

Terrified by the increasing danger, the queen was, at length, advised to quit her royal consort, and to seek security in the city of Exeter during that season of maternal difficulty and weakness which was close at hand. The whole melancholy winter of 1646 was passed by Charles within the walls of Christ Church; and from that college, now doubly honoured in affording a sanctuary to the misfortunes of a prince whom it had hospitably entertained in a prosperous season, he wrote the memorable letter to Lord Digby, in which he said that, "if he could not live as a king, he would at least die as a gentleman!"

Although effectual measures had been taken to fortify the city of Oxford, Charles deemed it prudent to accede to the desire of the

* At a subsequent period the University, likewise, assisted the king with the loan of above 10,000l. in money.

the opposite faction, when he sank personally in their power, and issued orders for its peaceable surrender. The possession of Oxford was a gratifying circumstance to the sectarian party. Their hands were eager to rend the vestments of the church, and to deface the monuments of art collected by the united elegance of taste and well-meaning piety of many ages. A visitation was speedily ordered by the "Parliament," and the Earl of Pembroke, Chancellor of the University, degraded himself by consenting to act in unison with these ignorant and fanatical delegates. The commissioners soon commenced action, and set themselves to work in *reforming the discipline*, and *correcting the erroneous doctrines, of the University*, by the rule of the covenant! Some partisans they found, but those chiefly of an inferior class, while the great body of the University met in convocation, and passed a public act and declaration against the proffered opinions. "An act," says Lord Clarendon, "which must remain to the world's end as a monument of the learning, courage, and loyalty, of this excellent place."

Such scenes now ensued as might be expected from the religious intoxication of vulgar minds. An ordinance, as it was called, was passed for the sale of "dean and chapter lands;" the visitors placed violent sectarians in the offices of the divines who refused to accede to their proposals; and the more strenuous of the elect among the soldiery broke all the painted windows to which they could gain access, and mutilated the most striking pieces of emblematical sculpture *.

* Cromwell was, himself, not insensible to the influence of the arts, and would, probably, have prevented the havoc which took place among pictures and carvings, if the vulgar bigotry of his faction had not rendered the sacrifice necessary. His conduct in regard to the cartoons proves that he did not look with coldness on the art of painting, and Warton mentions an anecdote, respecting the pillage of the University, that evinces his love of music. The organ of Magdalen chapel was celebrated for the fineness of its tones; and when it was pulled down as a diabolical agent of superstition he caused it to be removed to Hampton Court, and there preserved for his particular amusement.

This

During the periods in which the Parliament, the army, and a bold individual, under the title of *Protector*, successively ruled the country, Oxford was, by no means, scantily supplied with nominal students; but classical learning experienced an entire stagnation. The candidates for holy orders were not now examined concerning their progress in Greek and Roman erudition; their advance in grace was the only subject of enquiry. The people appointed to investigate their pretensions were termed *tryers*, and were chiefly laymen, though some were ecclesiastics of the Independent and Presbyterian persuasions. In the year 1650, Oliver Cromwell was elected chancellor.

Yet, amidst this melancholy scene of ignorance and enthusiasm, genuine talent still inhabited the more shady recesses of the University. A few men of sedate mind, whose judgment had escaped injury from the delusive influence of the vortex in which they dwelt, held periodical conferences for the communication of discoveries in physics and geometry. Among these the name of Wilkins, afterwards Bishop of Chester, who had married Cromwell's sister, shines with eminent lustre. In the meetings thus privily held we trace the origin of the *Royal Society;* and the pen would be indeed lavish which bestowed exaggerated commendation on the founders of that useful and honourable institution.

Waller the poet always asserted that Cromwell himself was not so illiterate as the major part of his faction; and Neale, the Historian of the Puritans, mentions the circumstance of his giving a hundred pounds a year to the divinity professor at Oxford as a proof of his wish to encourage learning. He, likewise, presented some Greek manuscripts to the Bodleian library.

On

This organ, on the Restoration, was regained by the college, and was not finally removed till within these last thirty years, when a new one was presented by a former member. Chalmers, likewise, observes that "on one occasion when at Oxford Cromwell restored a young gentleman of Christ Church to his student's place, who had been ejected by the parliamentary visitors, merely in consequence of *hearing him sing*."

On the Restoration, the University was replaced, with all convenient speed, on its former basis. The "dean and chapter" lands were returned to the legitimate proprietors; and most of those persons who had been unjustly expelled by the sectarian committee were restored to their respective collegiate stations. When once the leaders of the fanatical party were removed the remainder easily acceded to the wholesome customs of ancient order. "After several tyrannical governments," says Clarendon (whose warmth, when speaking on a subject connected with learning, must be pardoned,) "mutually succeeded each other, and, with the same malice and perverseness, endeavoured to extinguish all good literature and allegiance, Oxford yielded a harvest of extraordinary good and sound knowledge, in all parts of learning; and many who were wickedly introduced applied themselves to the study of good learning and the practice of virtue, and had inclination to that duty and obedience they had never been taught." The names of the able and honourable men who matured their studies at Oxford in the reign of Charles II. would form the best comment on Lord Clarendon's text.

In the year 1681, Charles II. summoned a Parliament at Oxford, the meeting of which was attended with many boisterous circumstances. Party-spirit now prevailed to a high degree. The popular faction affected to dread some secret machinations among the Papists; and their leaders entered Oxford attended by large trains of servants and partisans to act as guards. Numerous bands of soldiery were ranged round the royal quarters; and, on the whole, according to Hume, the assembly rather bore the appearance of a tumultuous Polish diet, than of a regular English Parliament.

This scene of turbulence was shortly followed by others of a more important nature. In the reign of James II. the spirit of religious faction again broke forth. The modification was altered, but the temper was the same. No attempt of this infatuated monarch to subvert the religious establishment of the country has

more forcibly attracted the notice of historians than his illegal interference with the University of Oxford.

Not long after James ascended the throne, the president of Magdalen College (well known to be one of the richest foundations in Europe) died; and the king, relying on a profession of passive obedience lately made by the University, transmitted a command for the election of a person named Farmer, to the vacant office. This Farmer was a man guilty of the most degrading vices, and the fellows of Magdalen humbly requested his majesty either to leave them the freedom of choice ordained by their statutes, or to nominate a more suitable character. The king was either too busy, or too disdainful, to make a reply; and, when the day of election arrived, the fellows, without hesitation, chose for president, Dr. Hough, a man of virtue, firmness, and correct understanding. Enraged by this conduct, James sent down an inferior ecclesiastical commission, the persons entrusted with which consented to withdraw Farmer from all pretensions, but presented a mandate in favour of Parker, recently created Bishop of Oxford, a man likewise of offensive character, but who, like the former candidate, was ready to embrace the Catholic religion without scruple. The fortitude of the collegiates rose progressively with the increase of danger. They respectfully stated their resolution to abide by the tenor of their statutes; but mentioned their tried and well-known loyalty as a proof of their readiness to adhere to the Crown under all lawful circumstances.

The unquestionable justice of their cause, and the mild character of their representations, availed little with the ill-advised king. He viewed the affair in so serious a light, that he visited Oxford in person, and commanded the fellows of the refractory college to appear before him at Christ Church. After an angry meeting with them in that place *, and several subsequent endeavours

* In token of their submissive disposition on points with which law and conscience did not interfere, the fellows all reverently knelt before his majesty;

deavours equally violent to reduce them to abject obedience, the president and all the fellows, except two, were forcibly expelled the college. A blended sentiment of terror and detestation was created by this conduct among all the friends of cool reason and upright government; and, in the year 1688, when James was alarmed in his turn by those preparations of the Prince of Orange, which led to an equitable and permanent arrangement of national affairs, one of his first steps towards a tardy retribution, was a reinstatement of the expelled president and fellows of Magdalen.

We have intentionally passed over several circumstances of some interest, unconnected with the general history of the University as a learned establishment, during the periods between Henry VIII. and the Revolution, persuaded that the detail would prove more acceptable under the heads of the different colleges at which the transactions took place. Influenced by the same character of consideration, we refer the succeeding annals of Oxford entirely to those pages.

The statutes under which the University of Oxford acts as a corporate body, received the royal approbation in the reign of Charles I. The legislative branch, and that by which degrees and honours are conferred, consists of the meeting of the vice-chancellor, heads of houses, and proctors; of the convocation; and the congregation. In the meeting first mentioned all new statutes, orders, and regulations, relating to the University must originate. When these are approved they are passed, in order to be ratified, to the *house*

jesty; but, regardless of their humble posture, James is said to have addressed them in the following manner:—"Ye have been a stubborn, turbulent, college. I have known you to be so these six and twenty years. You have affronted me in this.—Is this your church of England loyalty? One would wonder to find so many church of England men in such a business. Go home, and shew yourselves good members of the church of England!—— Get you gone! Know, I am your king: I will be obeyed; and I command you to be gone! Go, and admit the Bishop of Oxon! Head! Principal! what d'ye call it?" (Here a bystander said, *President*)—"I mean, President of the College! Let them that refuse it, look to it; they shall feel the weight of their sovereign's displeasure."

of convocation, which is formed by the vice-chancellor, proctors, and all doctors and masters who have taken out their regency. The *congregation* is composed of the vice-chancellor; the proctors, or their deputies; the *necessary regents* (doctors in divinity, law, and medicine; or masters of arts for the first two years following the act after they were admitted to their degrees;) and the *regents ad placitum* (all resident doctors; all public professors and lecturers; all heads of colleges and halls; and, in their absence, their deputies; the masters of the schools; the public examiners; and deans and censors of colleges.)

The officers by which the University is immediately governed are the chancellor, the high-steward, the vice-chancellor, and two proctors.

The chancellor is elected by the members of the convocation, and is usually chosen from the most distinguished of the ancient nobility. This office was once annual; and, at the most, triennial; but, in the 15th century, an ecclesiastic, Russel, Bishop of London, was elected chancellor for life; and this mode of election afforded a precedent so desirable that it has uniformly been acted on in subsequent ages. The duty of the chancellor is, under the king, to superintend the interests of the University; to defend its liberties; to investigate its complaints; to examine its progress in wholesome learning and refinement; to foster the efforts of its genius. In a word, to become its protecting father. For these purposes he is endowed with full power. He has a court, in which he has the liberty of presiding, either in person, or by deputy, when a scholar or privileged person is one of the parties; and the statutes of every college are so framed as to render his authority essential to its vital principle.

The high steward is nominated by the chancellor, but cannot act until he has sworn to fulfil his engagements before the convocation. His duty is to assist the chancellor, vice-chancellor, and proctors, in the performance of their respective offices; and, executively under the chancellor, to defend the privileges and laws

laws of the University. In the court, he sits, when required, as legal representative of the chancellor, and holds the court-leets of the University, either by himself or deputy. This officer maintains his appointment for life, and is generally a man of illustrious birth, and of eminent talent.

The vice-chancellor is recommended by the heads of houses, but is nominated by the chancellor, and admitted and sworn into office by the convocation. He is always the head of some college, and is annually nominated, though the office has of late usually been enjoyed by the same person for four successive years. The vice-chancellor superintends the due performance of University regulations; calls convocations, congregations, and courts; licenses taverns; expels delinquents, &c. He chooses four deputies, termed pro-vice-chancellors, one of whom supplies his place in the instance of sickness or absence.

The two proctors are masters of arts of at least four years' standing, and not more than ten, from their regency. They are chosen from the several colleges in turns, according to a cycle made out in the statutes granted by Charles I. The proctors are elected by the common suffrage of all doctors and masters of arts in their respective colleges. They assist the vice-chancellor in convocations and congregations; see that the scholastic exercises are duly performed, the statutes observed, just weights and measures kept, right habits worn, and the public peace preserved. These officers name four masters of arts as pro-proctors, to assist in the execution of their duty.

Besides these University magistrates there is a *public orator*, who is chosen by the convocation, and must be at least either a bachelor of civil law, or master of arts, and not of the same college with the person last elected. He writes letters and addresses on public occasions; delivers an harangue, as organ of the University, at the reception of any prince, or person of peculiar eminence, and presents the honorary degree of master of arts to those on whom it is conferred.

A *Keeper of the Archives*, who is elected by the convocation,

and whose duty it is to arrange and preserve the records and charters belonging to the University; and, by virtue of reading them publicly, to plead the rights and privileges of the University upon emergent occasions.

A *Registrar*, who attends convocations, congregations, and other meetings; registers all acts; takes copies of letters, and of all indentures which pass the University seal, or that of the chancellor's office. The Registrar, likewise, collects and receives the rents of the University.

In addition to private officers in each college and hall, who see that due order and discipline are preserved, and all the liberal sciences read and taught, there are public lecturers, and professors of the following descriptions:—Divinity, Hebrew, Greek, Civil Law, Medicine, Modern History, Botany, Natural Philosophy, Astronomy, Geometry, Ancient History, Anatomy, Music, Arabic, Poetry, Anglo-Saxon, Common Law, and Chemistry.

There are four terms kept in the year; and the degrees taken in this University are in divinity, law, physic, and the arts. Residence of sixteen terms is required for the degree of bachelor of arts *, and of twelve terms from the time of admission to that degree for master of arts. For some of these latter terms, however, a dispensation is usually allowed, and a residence of three weeks is sufficient to complete each term. The degree of bachelor of civil law is granted those who have been students five years. Four years after which, they may be admitted to the degree of doctor. The degree of bachelor of divinity is conferred on masters of arts of four years' standing, and that of doctor of divinity four years after.

The exercises for the degree of bachelor of arts and bachelor in civil law, are these:—The candidate must respond once before

* An exception is made in favour of the sons of English peers, eldest sons of baronets and knights, or sons of Scotch and Irish peers. When these are matriculated as such, and are not placed on the foundation of any college, they are allowed to be candidates for a bachelor's degree, after having completed three years.

fore the masters of the schools; and no person is allowed to respond unless he has attended the exercise at least one day during its whole continuance. This exercise is confined to the classics, the rudiments of logic, and Euclid's Elements of Geometry. The candidate for the degree of bachelor of arts must be created general sophist on the completion of two years' standing; and he must attend, at least twice, the readings of the determining bachelors. He is then publicly examined, which examination cannot take place before the beginning of the fourth year from his matriculation *; and no candidate can be examined until he has responded before the masters of the schools; nor unless he has been present at the examinations at least two days within the two years immediately preceding the term of his own examination. The examination consists of the rudiments of the Christian religion, classics, rhetoric, logic, moral philosophy, the elements of mathematics, and natural philosophy. Every bachelor of arts is to *determine* in the Lent after he has taken his degree. This exercise should consist in the reading of two Essays in Latin prose, but for one of the Essays he is at liberty to substitute a composition in Latin verse on a subject approved by the masters of the schools. There are four public examiners, who are nominated by the vice-chancellor and the proctors, and must afterwards be approved by the convocation. They must be all present during the examinations, and an examining master is not allowed to examine a candidate of the same college, or hall, to which himself belongs.

The total number of members on the University books is about 3000. For the reception of these there are twenty colleges, and five halls, to the description of which we now pass.

ALL

* Except as to those who are allowed to take a degree at three years' standing. Such may be examined at the beginning of the third year from their matriculation.

ALL SOULS' COLLEGE,

Was founded in the year 1437, by Henry Chichele, Archbishop of Canterbury; and consists chiefly of two spacious courts, one entered from the High Street, and the other from the paved square, in which is erected the Radcliffe library. The front towards the High Street is a low irregular range of building, which retains but little of its pristine symmetry and character. This front was originally 194 feet long, with two gateways, three very fine bay windows, and an embattlement to the extent of its whole length, with grotesque heads and spouts. The bay windows are now modernised, and the embattled character of the parapet is in one part preserved, and in another destroyed. The tower over the chief entrance remains nearly untouched by any devasting hand save that of time; and is a pleasing, as well as venerable, specimen of the original architect's taste. Two large and well-sculptured figures of King Henry VI. and Archbishop Chichele are placed in niches over the doorway.

But all want of prepossessing regularity and grandeur in the front is amply atoned for when the interior is examined. The court first entered from the High Street is about 124 feet in length, and 72 in breadth, and contains many features of the ancient structure erected according to the design of Chichele. The style of architecture is solid, and the buildings low, with an embattled parapet uniformly preserved. The tower over the gateway on the south, and one face of the chapel on the contrary side, nearly unaltered from the plan of the ancient builder, bestow a gratifying air of Gothic solemnity.

The great, or interior, quadrangle increases in beauty as well as in dimensions. This court is 172 feet in length, and 155 in breadth, and was erected at different periods of the last century, in consequence of various liberal subscriptions. The chapel and hall occupy the southern side, and on the north the splendid library of the college, constructed in a correspondent style of archi-

architecture to the buildings directly opposed to it, engrosses the whole extensive range. On the west is a cloister, the breadth of the court, with a gate of entrance in the centre. The eastern division contains the common room, and a series of other handsome apartments, surmounted by two lofty towers. The style of this quadrangle is the mixed Gothic, a character of architecture which allowed room for the excursions of creative taste, while the choice of it shewed a creditable respect for the manner of the original builder. The interior court of All Souls is happy in possessing the uniform grandeur of associated objects so necessary to a full display of architectural effect. The towers on the east, strengthened by graduated buttresses, and declining at the top into lessening minarets of delicate workmanship, completely fill the eye, and engage the attention. On the two adjoining sides the chapel and the library well support this lofty majesty of structure; and the highly-wrought dome of the Radcliffe library seems placed intentionally beyond the cloister, on the opposite side of the quadrangle, to present a back ground of captivating magnificence, while St. Mary's taper spire, rich in Gothic ornaments, shoots above the buildings which compose the outer court.

John Druel, Archdeacon of Exeter, and Roger Keyes, both afterwards fellows of the college, were the principal architects employed in the original building; and Hawksmoor planned and superintended the arrangement of the new quadrangle.

The chapel retains the exterior only as left by the founder. The superb decorations placed there by Chichele were chiefly removed in the reign of Elizabeth, by order of the high commissioners appointed under that queen, who seem to have entertained a truly puritanical aversion to the ornaments of the old religion. The interior of the chapel, as it now stands, was arranged by the combined talents of Sir Christopher Wren, Sir James Thornhill, and Dr. Clarke. An eminent simplicity and sedateness pervade the whole. The floor is of black and white marble. The roof is divided into compartments, painted and gilded

gilded on canvas with a grateful sobriety of taste. The piers on each side are filled with painted figures of different illustrious persons connected with the college. The altar-piece is composed of fine clouded marble, over which is an Assumption piece of the founder. This picture, together with the ceiling, the figures on the piers, and two vases, the bas-relief of which represents the institution of the two sacraments, was executed by Sir James Thornhill. In a compartment over the communion-table is an estimable picture; a *noli me tangere* *, by *Mengs*, who painted it at Rome, and parted with it to the college for three hundred guineas. The colouring is extremely fine, particularly that of the Saviour. Mingled amazement, joy, and grief, are happily contrasted in the face of Mary, to the dignity and superhuman composure of Jesus. The windows are painted in Chiaro scuro, by Lovegrove of Marlow, except that on the west, which was performed by Eggington. Each compartment of this latter window merely assumes the imitation of an unoccupied Gothic niche; a uniformity which, perhaps, will be deemed fatiguing to the eye, notwithstanding the utmost efforts of the artist to please through the medium of simplicity.

The interior of *the hall*, a room of striking elegance, was constructed early in the last century, at the expense of the society, and of several gentlemen who had formerly been members. At the upper end is a fine statue by Bacon (for which he received 450 guineas) of Justice Blackstone, and over the chimney is a piece by Sir James Thornhill, representing the Finding of the Law, and King Josiah rending his Robe. The hall, likewise, contains the portraits of Colonel Codrington, the founder, and Sir Nathaniel Lloyd, by the same painter. Round the room are placed a series of casts from the antique, and busts of the founder, of Linacre, and of Leland. This latter bust may well induce the spectator to pause, and pay the tribute of a sigh. Leland was one of the most laborious scholars of his era; and when he

* So called in allusion to the first words of Christ to Mary Magdalene after his resurrection, "Touch me not!"

he applied, under the patronage of Henry VIII. to antiquities and topography, he had the high merit of styling himself the first writer who was anxious to impart the graces of eloquence to the delineations connected with his pursuits. But when Henry (who, in this rare instance, must be considered in the light of a munificent patron) died, Leland became neglected, and his accomplished mind, overwhelmed with its own weight, when no friendly hand was nigh to lend support, sank into ruins. His library now evinced the disorder of his thoughts. The volumes once so methodically ranged, and the notes which had been collected with so much care and labour, were scattered tumultuously on the floor. He was soon pronounced unequivocally insane, and died in his fortieth year. The bust describes him as meagre, shrivelled, and pensive. So strongly marked are the lines of premature old age, that Granger has ventured to pronounce the bust supposititious; but (as has been observed by D'Israeli) when Mr. Granger formed that opinion he did not look with the eye of a physiognomist. It is the havoc of mind, and not of age, that stands expressed in the imaged countenance of Leland *.

The *Library* (perhaps the largest room of its kind in the kingdom) is 198 feet in length, and 32½ in breadth, with an exception of the centre, in which a recess is formed fifty-one feet and a quarter from the commencement to the termination. The height is not less than forty feet; and there are two succeeding ranges of book-cases supported by pilasters of the Doric and Ionic orders. Above the gallery, which forms an access to the upper range, are vases, and busts, in bronze, of some of the most eminent fellows of the college, cast by Sir Henry Cheere. Over the door is a fine bust of the founder, by Roubilliac; and in the area of the central recess is placed a statue of Colonel Codrington.

To this latter person the society is indebted for the splendour of the present building in which its books are reposited. Colonel Codrington was born in Barbadoes, but of English parents, and

* An engraving from this bust is prefixed to the Life of Leland, published in 1772.

and was admitted a fellow of All Souls, in the year 1689. Under the appointment of King William he afterwards became Captain General and Governor in Chief of the leeward Caribbee islands; and, at his decease, bequeathed the sum of 10,000l. for the purpose of constructing a new library at All Souls, Oxford; and, also, to the same college he left a collection of books, worth not less than 6,000l. The first stone of the new building was laid, in 1716, by Dr. Young, the well-known author of the Night Thoughts; but the whole was not completed till the year 1750. The entire expense was 12,101l. 5s.

In the vestibule of the library is a tripod, which was found at Corinth; and which is considered unique, as it is formed of marble, and has some curious particularities in the construction of the pedestal. An ante-library, and several subordinate rooms at the south-end, contain some interesting specimens of ancient coloured glass, among which the portraits of Henry VI. and of the founder are supposed to be coeval with the foundation.

Henry Chichele, the founder of this college, was born about the year 1362, at Higham-Ferrars, in Northamptonshire. He received the rudiments of education at Winchester school, and was then removed to New College, Oxford, where he studied the civil and canon law. After enjoying various ecclesiastical preferments he was noticed by Henry IV. and was employed by that sovereign in several negociations with the apostolic court. In 1408, he was presented by Pope Gregory XII. to the Bishopric of St. David's; and, in the early part of the reign of Henry V. he succeeded to the Archbishopric of Canterbury. During the factious days which so calamitously marked the accession of the sixth Henry, Chichele retired to his province, in which, indeed, he found ample employment for the extent of his talent. The doctrines of Wickliffe were rapidly spreading among the people, and as quickly annihilating all respect for the church as established at that period. The task of Chichele was difficult; but he performed it creditably. As Archbishop of Canterbury he supported the rights of the establishment, but never suffered the

passions

passions of the man to interfere with the presumed duties of the ecclesiastic. Even Fox, the martyrologist, is silent respecting Chichele; and the silence of Fox may surely be supposed to mean as much as the commendation of any other writer. While actively engaged in the duties of his province, Chichele laid the plan of that College in Oxford which he lived to see matured. But, soon after the walls of All Souls were raised, he felt so pressingly the infirmities of old age, that he wrote an address to the Pope, in which he stated that he was "near eighty, heavy laden, infirm, and weak beyond measure;" and, therefore, begged to be relieved from that burthen of ecclesiastical duty which he could no longer support, either with ease to himself, or benefit to others. He ceased, however, to feel all infirmity before the answer of the Pope could be obtained; and was interred, with much solemnity, in the Cathedral of Canterbury.

In the charter of All Souls, which was granted in 1438, King Henry VI. at the request of Chichele, assumed the title of founder, in conjunction with the archbishop; but the latter retained all legislative power in regard to the new Establishment. The meaning of the name, by which the College was ordered to be distinguished, may be understood from the directions given the Society to pray for the good estate of Henry VI. and the archbishop, during their lives; and for their souls after their decease; also for the souls of Henry V. and all the noblemen and other subjects who had fallen in the war with France;* and, after these, for the souls of *all* the faithful deceased. The statutes framed by Chichele for the regulation of his college were modelled in attention to those of his great predecessor, Wykeham. One exception, however, occurred, which has led to much litigation; in the choice of fellows a preference was always to be given to the next of kin descended from his two brothers. The difficulty of ascertaining precedence of consanguinity, at a period so remote as the present, will be readily perceived, when we observe that, in the

*Chichele had strenuously advised Henry to undertake the French war.

the year 1765, the collateral descendants of Chichele were to be traced through nearly 1200 families!

Among the many eminent men, who have studied at All Souls we find the following: Archbishop Sheldon; Jeremy Taylor; Bishop of Down and Connor; Linacre, the first person who taught Greek at Oxford. This celebrated man was first educated at All Souls, and then pursued his studies abroad until sufficiently accomplished to assist in the introduction of polite literature to his own country. He was one of the founders of the College of Physicians, London, and was its first president. Leland; Sir Anthony Shirley; Tindal, the sceptical writer, who was principally remarkable when at this college, according to a clerical biographer, for an extraordinary appetite. Dr. Sydenham, to whom medical science is so much indebted; Sir William Trumbull, the statesman, and friend of Pope; Sir Christopher Wren. In addition to the skill exercised by this eminent architect in the arrangement of the interior of All Soul's Chapel, he constructed a curious sun-dial, still preserved on the southern face of the chapel, which "shews the time to a minute, having two half rays and one whole one for every hour, and the minutes marked on the sides of the rays, fifteen on each side *."—Sir Nathaniel Lloyd; Sir William Blackstone, whose commentaries reflect such distinguished honour on his memory.

There was long preserved a curious, though inconsequential custom in this college; that of celebrating the festival of *the Mallard* every year, on the 14th of January, in remembrance of a huge mallard, or drake, found, according to tradition, in a drain under ground, on digging the foundation of the college. On the recurrence of this festival an ancient and humourous song was regularly sung. When Pointer wrote his Oxoniensis Academia, he committed offence by insinuating that this immortalized mallard was no other than *a goose*. The insinuation produced a reply

* Many architectural drawings by Wren are preserved in the library of this college, from the view of which it is evident that he revised his plans with scrupulous care, and made frequent alterations in his original designs.

ply from Dr. Buckler, replete with irresistible irony; but Pointer met a partisan in Mr. Bilson, chaplain of All Souls, who issued a folio sheet, intituled, "Proposals for printing by subscription the History of the Mallardians;" with the figure of a cat prefixed, said to have been found starved in the college *library*. The festival has now been for some years discontinued.

The society consists of a warden, forty fellows, two chaplains, and six clerks and choristers.

BALLIOL COLLEGE.

This building has all the unpleasing irregularity of architectural features which arises from the construction of additional parts, at various periods, with a greater regard to internal accommodation than to exterior beauty of aspect. The founder was John de Balliol, of Bernard's Castle, in the county of Durham, a man of much power in the 13th century, and a firm friend to Henry III. during all his contests. De Balliol married the Lady Dervorgille, daughter of Alan of Galloway, a Scottish baron, by Margaret, eldest sister of the last Earl of Chester, who was one of the heirs to David, Earl of Huntingdon, younger brother of William, King of Scotland. By this marriage the founder became father of John de Balliol, the unfortunate king of Scotland.

John de Balliol, the elder, possessed a love of learning uncommon with the gentry of his era; and, instigated by this honourable propensity, he commenced, so early as the year 1263, the maintenance of sixteen poor scholars of Oxford. The death of this generous man appears to have been sudden, since he left no written document declarative of his intended bounty, but earnestly recommended the scholars whom he had hitherto protected to the permanent attention of his lady and his executors. The former bounty of de Balliol had arisen from his personal estate; and as this property passed away, from the hands of his widow,

the interests of the scholars rested on a precarious basis. But the charitable and religious feelings of the lady were so ably called into exercise by her Confessor, Richard Slickbany, a minorite friar, that she took the future support of her deceased husband's students on her own responsibility. As the first step of projected kindness she hired a house on the site of part of the present college; and was so fortunate as to meet with the concurrence of De Balliol's executors in her succeeding measures for giving permanency to the establishment. In 1282, she appointed statutes under her seal, which are at present chiefly interesting as they shew the state of collegiate discipline at so early a period. Among other particulars the students were enjoined to be present at divine offices on Lord's Days and principal festivals; and also at sermons on those days, unless prevented by urgent necessity. They were to choose their own principal; but he was to be approved and confirmed by the procurators appointed by herself before he could exercise any authority. Before and after daily meals they were to speak a benediction, and to pray for the soul of her husband, and for her procurators, according to a prescribed form. The richer scholars were enjoined to live temperately, that the less affluent of their fellow-students might not be "grieved by burdensome expenses;" and such as murmured respecting this injunction were to be expelled. The scholars were to speak Latin in common, and a sophism was to be disputed and determined every other week. A poor scholar was named by the procurators, to whom the other students were bound to give every day the broken meat of their table. At this time the number of scholars was about sixteen.

This new society shortly gained fresh strength. The Lady Dervorgille purchased a tenement, called Mary's Hall, as a perpetual settlement for the principal and students, and presented them with lands (since lost) in the county of Northumberland. The son of De Balliol, at the same time, honourably confirmed the foundation so anxiously desired by his father. The revenues of the college were, however, still so small, that they yielded only eight-

eightpence per week to each scholar; but auxiliary benefactors were soon found, among whom may be particularly noticed Sir William Felton, who, about the year 1340, bestowed the rectory and manor of Abbotsley in Huntingdonshire; and Sir Philip Somervyle, who gave the church of Long Benton, with lands in the county of Northumberland, for the maintenance of six scholars, to be chosen by the sixteen fellows already belonging to the college, from among the poorest natives of the places made over who should possess promising abilities. In consequence of this benefaction new statutes were introduced by Sir Philip, in which it was ordered that the society should, thenceforward, choose out of their number one who should govern all the establishment, under the name of master. Fresh regulations respecting study were likewise imposed; and the weekly allowance of the fellows and scholars was raised to eleven-pence, or, in times of dearness of provision, (which often occurred,) to fifteen-pence. These statutes, dated 1340, were confirmed by Edward Balliol, king of Scotland.

Shortly after this period Thomas Cave, rector of Welwyke in Yorkshire, left *one hundred pounds* to be judiciously laid out for the purpose of increasing the number of scholars. With this sum were purchased the livings of Fillingham, Riseholme, and Brattleby, in Lincolnshire.*

In 1507, it was settled, by a new body of statutes drawn up by the Bishops of Winchester and Carlisle, that the number of fellows should be limited to ten, who were all to study divinity and to enter into holy orders. Each fellow was to have the presentation of one scholar, and the master of two. This number was afterwards augmented by the benefactions of John Bell, Bishop of Worcester, who died in 1566; William Hammond, Esq. of Guildford, in Surrey, who bequeathed 100l. per annum, though only the principal sum of 200l. was obtained; Lady Eli-

* These three rectories still append to the College, and are thus valued in the king's books: Fillingham, 22l.; Riseholme, 4l.; Brattleby, 7l. 10s.

zabeth Periam, of Greenland, in Berkshire, who founded a fellowship and two scholarships, &c.

In addition to these liberal bequests, Dr. Warner, Bishop of Rochester, and founder of Bromley College, gave, in the year 1666, part of the emoluments of his manor of Swayton, for the maintenance of four scholars of the Scottish nation, to be chosen by the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of Rochester, each to have twenty pounds yearly until he had taken the degree of M. A. when he was to return to his own country, to assist in supporting the ecclesiastical establishment of England. This fund has since been increased by the profits arising from the manor of Uffton in Warwickshire, presented for that purpose by John Snell, Esq. a native of the county of Air, in Scotland. The donation of Mr. Snell was to be applied to the service of not more than twelve, nor less than five, scholars, to be chosen from Glasgow College, at which place he had himself received education. It is impossible to quit the subject of these last bequests without observing that the benefactors appear to have been, in a great measure, actuated by a spirit of grateful remembrance towards the original patroness of the College, and the ill-fated King of Scots, her son.

While the society was in its infancy, and nurtured chiefly by the kind but circumscribed auspices of Lady Dervorgille, the students were accommodated in two buildings, (termed the new and the old Balliol Halls,) and various subordinate tenements, all of which stood nearly, or quite, within the boundaries of the present edifice. No part of the building, as it now appears, is older than the reign of Henry VI. The front towards the street, we have said, is extremely irregular. In the central approach to the quadrangle, which was partly built in the time of that king, and which still forms the chief division of the College, is a square Gothic tower with an embattled parapet, and an oriel over the entrance, on each side of which is a highly enriched and canopied niche. The arms of the Balliol family likewise adorn this gateway.

gateway. On the right is a plain weighty range of buildings, constructed in the beginning of the eighteenth century; and, on the left, an extent of edifice which reaches 108 feet, very handsome, but possessing little consonance of character to the division on the remote side of the gateway. This building was erected at the expense of Mr. Fisher, late fellow of the College. It is divided into three stories, and has a pediment over the centre, with a shield on its flat surface.

The same dissimilarity of architectural feature pervades the interior of the quadrangle. This court is 120 feet long, and 80 feet broad. The simply-beautiful front of the hall, which remains nearly as left by the architect the sixth of Henry's time, forms the chief part of the western side; and the remaining ground is occupied by the residence of the master, built by Bishop Grey. A bay window in the front of these lodgings is eminently beautiful. It is of the finest florid Gothic, and the intersections of carved stone work are delicately light. The northern side is composed of the chapel and the library, the whole having an embattled parapet. The great entrance to the chapel is nearly in the centre, and is highly decorated, but still possesses that lightness of effect which the Gothic architects knew so well the manner of producing, even in the midst of a seeming redundancy of embellishment. On the east is the plain front of the building constructed in the eighteenth century. The venerable tower stands as a centre to the southern division of the court, on one side of which is a continuation of the heavy structure that forms the eastern range, and on the other is a low Gothic series of the original edifice.

Besides the buildings already noticed, there is an area on the north-west, which comprises several detached apartments built for the use of students by Archbishop Abbot, in the reign of Charles I. On this area abuts the northern extremity of the pile raised by Mr. Fisher, which bears the following modest inscription, placed there in attention to his own wish:

VERBUM NON AMPLIUS—FISHER.

The *chapel* was built between the years 1521 and 1529, at the expense of many private contributors, and contains some interesting specimens of painted glass. The eastern window was presented by Dr. Stubbs, in 1529; and expresses, in colours extremely vivid, the Passion, Resurrection, and Ascension. It is said that Waldham was desirous of placing this glass in his chapel, and offered 200l. for it. The second window on the south, containing the story of Hezekiah's sickness and recovery, is executed by Bernard Van Linge, and was presented by Dr. Wentworth.

The *Hall* is a pleasing building, in the pointed style, the interior of which has been modernized in a plain but respectable manner. Among the plate possessed by the College is a large cup presented by "the Man of Ross."

The *Library* of Balliol was built at different times; the part towards the west by Dr. Chace, in 1427; and that on the east by Mr. Robert Abdy, in 1477. Both of these donors were some time Masters of the Society. The interior was entirely rebuilt by Wyatt, a few years back, in a style so sedate, and temperately imitative of the Gothic, that it cannot be too warmly commended. The windows, which are ancient, are embellished with the arms of benefactors. This library formerly contained many valuable manuscripts, not less than 200 of which were presented by one prelate, in the year 1454; —— Grey, Bishop of Ely, who employed numerous transcribers and illuminators in various parts of the continent. But this splendid collection was cruelly injured by the visitors in the reign of Edward VI. Much liberality, however, has been exercised in regard to the donation of printed books in succeeding periods, and the library now possesses an extensive arrangement of estimable works.

In this College were educated the following eminent prelates: Morton, Archbishop of Canterbury, the able minister of Henry VII. and second perpetual chancellor of the University; Tunstall, Bishop of Durham, a prelate inimical to the Reformation, but who

who still had the honor to be warmly praised by Erasmus, Dean Colet, and Linacre; Dr. Douglas, late Bishop of Salisbury, who removed to this College from St. Mary's Hall, first on Bishop Warner's, and afterwards on Snell's foundation.

Among the celebrated students of other ranks occur the names of Humphrey, the "good" Duke of Gloucester, a nobleman who deserves the peculiar reverence of the University at large, as founder of the public library; John Tiptoft, Earl of Worcester, an encourager of literature in the reigns of Henry VI. and Edward IV. This Lord is well known as one of the earliest English writers who employed the press of Caxton; Ross of Warwick, the historian; Sir Robert Atkyns, chief baron of the Exchequer, and his son, the historian of Gloucestershire; Tobias Crisp, supposed to be the founder of the sect of Antinomians; the tasteful and judicious John Evelyn, whose name will occur when we mention the Arundelian marbles preserved in the University; Dr. Charles Davenant, son of the laureate, and an able writer on finance; Hutchinson, the historian of Dorsetshire; and James West, sometime president of the Royal Society. In addition to this list, it must be observed that John Wickliffe, the celebrated reformer, was once master of the College, a circumstance that was recollected by many when Cranmer surrendered his breath on the paved way directly opposite to the chief entrance.*

The Society consists of a master, twelve fellows, fourteen scholars, and eighteen exhibitioners, and possesses the singular privilege of electing its own visitor.

BRASEN NOSE COLLEGE,

forms the west side of Radcliffe square, and is built on the site of several ancient halls, among which was Little University Hall,

* A flat, oblong stone, which marked the precise spot on which the fatal stake was placed, was not removed till within the few last years.

Hall, supposed to have been instituted by King Alfred. The present College was founded about the year 1509, by William Smyth, Bishop of Lincoln, and some time chancellor of the University of Oxford, assisted (though chiefly in point of superintendance, as far as regarded the foundation and erection of the first building,) by Sir Richard Sutton. Bishop Smyth was the fourth son of Robert Smyth, of Peel-house in the parish of Prescot, Lancashire, and studied at Oxford, where he took his degree of Bachelor of Law* at some period previous to 1492, in which year he was instituted to the rectory of Cheshunt, in Hertfordshire. He is supposed to have been recommended to the notice of Henry VII. by the Earl of Derby, and was appointed clerk of the Hanaper, with an annual allowance of forty pounds, and an additional stipend of eighteen-pence per day during his attendance in person, or by deputy, on the lord chancellor, speedily after Henry's accession to the crown. After several intermediate steps of advancement he was preferred to the see of Lichfield and Coventry, and was soon named president of the prince's council within the marches of Wales. He now evinced the noble use which he was inclined to make of affluence, by rebuilding, and endowing afresh, the hospital of St. John in Lichfield, to which he attached a school, afterwards united with the seminary patronised by Edward the Sixth, so deservedly famous from its pupils, Newton, Addison, and Samuel Johnson.

After Smyth had filled the episcopal seat of Lichfield for two years, he was translated to the bishopric of Lincoln, and shortly acceded to the request of the University of Oxford by becoming their chancellor. This latter honorable office, however, he resigned before 1507, in which year he concerted the plan of founding a new college with his friend Sir Richard Sutton. He died

* Ecclesiastics were accustomed to proceed in law degrees during the ages in which they were permitted to fill high stations in the legislative department of the state.

died at Buckden, in 1513, and was interred in Lincoln cathedral.*

Sir Richard Sutton, the friendly adviser of Bishop Smyth, was descended from the ancient family of the Suttons, of Sutton, near Macclesfield, in the county palatine of Chester. He practised as a barrister of the Inner Temple; and, in 1498, became a member of the privy council. He was, likewise, one of the governors of the Inner Temple, and steward of the monastery of Sion, near Brentford.† The precise period of his death is not known; but an annual commemoration of him is observed by the society of Brasen Nose on the Sunday after Michaelmas.

When the plan of the new college was duly concerted, the building was prosecuted with much alacrity under the inspection of Sir Richard, and the Society is supposed to have become a permanent corporation in 1512. According to the charter, the establishment was to consist of a principal and sixty scholars, who were to be first instructed in sophistry, logic, and philosophy, and then in divinity. The original donations entirely proceeded from Bishop Smyth, though Sutton took an active part in carrying the wishes of the prelate into effect, and afterwards bestowed many valuable manors and other estates. In the year 1521, a complete revision of the statutes was undertaken by Sir Richard Sutton, the surviving founder, and the society was made to consist of a principal and twelve fellows. The brilliant example of the founders produced a generous emulation among their contemporaries, and through succeeding ages. Besides a list, much too extensive for insertion, of such benefactors as guided their bounty by the model of the original donors, there have been sums bequeathed by eminent persons for the foundation of lectureships in Philosophy, in Humanity, Hebrew, Greek, and Mathematics.

The

* His grave-stone, richly adorned with brass, was destroyed by the fanatics in the civil war; but a mural monument has been lately erected to his memory.

† While steward of this religious house he was at the expense of publishing a splendid, and now very rare, book, intituled, "The Orcharde of Syon."

The buildings constructed by the two founders have, fortunately, not undergone any material alterations, except such as were evidently conducive to improvement, though the strict line of architectural keeping has been carelessly violated in some subordinate particulars. The front is an extensive range, and possesses a sedate, massive, and commanding character. Over the chief entrance is a lofty tower in a style of highly-embellished but pure Gothic. On both sides of the gateway extends a long pile of building, three stories high, with a parapet; the eastern end of the chapel and a part of the library terminate the range at the southern end. The square tower of entrance is still the chief ornament of this front, but must have stood displayed with greater effect before the attic of the contiguous ranges was built in the reign of James I. Except the increase of height produced by that necessary addition, the chief part of the front remains as it was originally constructed. The buildings are principally comprised in a large quadrangle, and a smaller court towards the south. The former only is a part of the founder's design, and consists of a hall and ranges of apartments for students. In the centre of this quadrangle is placed a piece of sculpture, representing two male figures in violent contest. These figures were given to the College by Dr. Clarke of All Souls, and are believed to represent the murder of Abel by Cain. Over the outward door of the hall are two interesting busts, said to have been discovered in digging the foundation of the College. The first is that of Alfred, the presumed founder of the hall dismantled for the purpose of the new structure; and the other that of John Scotus Erigena, reported to have been the first lecturer in Alfred's building. These busts are small, but exquisitely expressive, and are in good preservation. The story concerning the manner of their discovery is not sufficiently authenticated for ready adoption; but the busts are evidently very ancient.

The court towards the south is chiefly occupied by the library and the chapel, both of which were built in the seventeenth century. It is conjectured that Sir Christopher Wren

Wren gave the plans for these structures when a very young man. The architecture of the whole court contains an unpleasing confusion of character. Gothic windows and battlements are opposed by pilasters, ornamented with classic capitals: and, in one instance, a pilaster, with a capital of the Corinthian order, is even surmounted by a modern pinnacle imitative of the Gothic.

Besides the quadrangle and court already noticed, there are apartments called the new buildings, calculated for the reception of seven students, and a handsome house facing the High-street, erected in 1776, for the residence of the principal.

The *Hall* is spacious and lofty, with a handsome bay window at the upper end, in which are two ancient portraits of the founders. The fire-place, which is conspicuously appropriate, was bestowed by Lord Curzon in 1760. Previously to that period the hall was warmed in the ancient fashion, by a fire in the centre. Two busts of the founders are likewise preserved in the hall; and several portraits ornament the walls, among which must be noticed that of Mrs. Joyce Frankland, a liberal benefactress, who resided principally at the Ryehouse in Hertfordshire, and died at the latter part of the sixteenth century. The portrait is well painted: and it is remarkable that she is represented with a watch in her hand, which has a metal front, like the hunting-watches of the present day. The name of this lady is mentioned in the common grace after dinner regularly spoken in the hall.

The library constructed by the founders stood on the north side of the great quadrangle. In 1663 this building was converted into chambers, and the *present library* was erected. In the original design there were cloisters beneath the new structure, but these have been since filled up and formed into apartments. The highly-ornamented interior, as it now appears, was arranged by Wyat, in 1780; and it is worth observing, that, up to this epoch, the books were chained to the shelves. Among the valuable works preserved in this library are the books collected by the erudite *Wasse*, of whom it was said by Bentley, "when I

am dead, Wasse will be the most learned man in England." These books are enriched by the manuscript notes of the original collector, and were presented by Dr. Yarborough.

The present *Chapel*, which was begun in 1656, is partly composed of materials brought from the ancient chapel of St. Mary's College, in which Erasmus studied. The eastern window was executed by Pearson, from drawings by Mortimer. The altar is richly decorated; and the ceiling of wood is a skilful imitation of Gothic stone-work. On a first view, the spectator is involuntarily charmed with an air of decent grace and modest elegance which appears to pervade the whole interior; yet, when he examines separately the objects which have gratified him in combination, he laments to find that he has been pleased through a meretricious medium. All order is set at defiance; and the Gothic and classic manners are mingled with most fantastical freedom.

In the anti-chapel is a good bust of Dr. Shippen, a late principal.

Among other eminent men to whom it has imparted the education which enabled them to attain future honours, Brasennose numbers, Caldwell, president of the College of Physicians; Fox, the martyrologist. This zealous writer, however, removed to Magdalen. Sir John Savile, Baron of the Exchequer; Sir John Spelman; Brerewood, first professor of astronomy in Gresham College: Humphrey Lloyd, the Welch historian; Sampson Erdeswick, the Staffordshire antiquary; the Lord Chancellor Egerton; Sir James Ley, afterwards Earl of Marlborough; Burton, author of the Anatomy of Melancholy, a writer whose learning is unquestionable, whatever may be the opinion respecting his pretensions to wit; John Prince, author of the Worthies of Devon; Thomas Church, rector of the parish in which Lord Bolingbroke resided, and who was honoured with the degree of D. D. by diploma, for his answer to the sceptical writings of that nobleman. The Rev. John Watson, author of the History of Halifax.

In

In addition to these respectable names, Brasen Nose has produced fifteen prelates. Elias Ashmole, the Berkshire historian, entered of this college in advanced life; and the late Rev. John Whitaker, author of the History of Manchester, continued here about twelve months, after which he was elected scholar of Corpus.

The singular name by which this college is distinguished necessarily excites curiosity. It appears that, in the early prevalence of establishments for study, some of the places in which the scholars assembled derived an appellation from circumstances of the most trivial local description, and others gained names from particulars which exposed them to satirical or jocose observations. Of this latter kind was a very ancient hall which had a large brasen face on the door, probably to answer the purpose of a knocker. This hall formed one part of the buildings reduced by the founders of the present college, and Little University Hall, the supposed foundation of Alfred, formed another. The founders were desirous of preserving the memory of both, and they bestowed on the new structure the name of the *King's Hall*, and *College of Brasen Nose*. The allusion to King Alfred has faded from notice, and the latter term now prevails alone. Over the chief gateway of the college is still placed a brasen human face, with a nose extravagantly large.

The society now consists of a principal, twenty fellows, thirty-two scholars, and fifteen exhibitioners.

CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE

owes its foundation to Richard Fox, Bishop of Winchester, who was born, towards the end of the reign of Henry VI. at Ropesley, near Grantham, in Lincolnshire, and was placed, at a proper age, at Magdalen College; but, being obliged to retire from Oxford by the prevalence of one of those pestilential diseases then so frequent, he repaired to the University of Cambridge. He does not

not appear to have stopped there long, and completed his studies at Paris, where, it is supposed, he obtained his doctor's degree.

At Paris Fox became acquainted with Morton, Bishop of Ely, by whom he was recommended to the notice of the Earl of Richmond, afterwards Henry VII. He performed many services for Henry during his struggle for the throne, and was promoted to the see of Exeter two years after the battle of Bosworth Field. The Bishop was subsequently employed in many places of dignified civil trust; and, as a recompense for his able conduct and firm integrity, was promoted to the see of Winchester, and appointed keeper of the privy seal. The University of Cambridge likewise elected him their chancellor, which office he filled for two years. During the whole reign of Henry VII. the Bishop maintained an uninterrupted influence at court; and so free was his character from the cold and unsocial bigotry too frequent among the high-seated churchmen of his era, that he often condescended to take a share in festive ceremonies, and is said to have entirely contrived the pageantry prepared in honour of the nuptials of Prince Arthur and Catharine of Spain.

Shortly after Henry VIII. mounted the throne the power of Wolsey eclipsed the pretensions of every competitor, and Fox retired from political life. The man who preserves court-favour through one whole reign, has little right to charge fortune with instability. It is probable that the Bishop quitted state-business with contented dignity; for he was mature in honour, and oppressed with many infirmities, but it was impossible for him to avoid mortification when he reflected that he had himself laboured to introduce to the notice of the king the man whose rising star compelled him to seek the shade.

It was now that Fox entered with extensive zeal on those pursuits which have entitled him to the gratitude of posterity. He employed vast sums in building additions to the cathedral at Winchester, and enlarged his designs concerning a donation to Oxford. So early as the year 1513, he had purchased lands, with the intention of erecting a college for a certain number of

monks

monks and secular scholars. He had even begun the buildings, when Hugh Oldham, Bishop of Exeter, persuaded him to extend his plan, and to construct an edifice of a more generally useful character. Accordingly, in 1516, he obtained a licence from Henry VIII. to found a college for students in divinity, philosophy, and arts.

The whole intended building was completed during his life; and the statutes were formed in 1527, by which the society was made to consist of a president, twenty fellows, twenty scholars, two chaplains, two clerks, and two choristers. The foundation of Bishop Fox took place at a momentous era in the annals of literature. The revivers of elegant letters were now endeavouring to introduce a knowledge of the classics as a necessary part of school-learning. The founder of Corpus Christi was one of the most potent friends of this enlightened undertaking. He appointed two lectures for Greek and Latin, and invited the most accomplished scholars to the shelter of his new establishment. Thus did the munificence of Fox bestow an immediate, as well as durable, benefit on those pursuits which have added dignity to public manners, and have produced grand reformation in the national church. Bishop Fox died, blind and aged, but with all the serenity which springs from an uninjured conscience, in 1528, and was buried in a chantry built by himself in Winchester cathedral.

The benefactors to this college are not very numerous, and consist chiefly of members of the society, with the principal exception of Hugh Oldham, Bishop of Exeter, who contributed six thousand marks, besides land.

Corpus Christi College (dedicated, in the original charter, to the praise and honour of God Almighty, the most holy *Body of Christ*, the blessed Virgin Mary, and various saints,) stands to the east of Christ Church, and to the west of Merton. The whole design of the founder consisted of one spacious quadrangle, with its attendant chapel, hall, and library; but various buildings have been added since for the accommodation of the increasing

number of students. The front is solid and handsome, having a battlement along the top, and a lofty square tower in the centre, ornamented with three empty canopied niches. There is much simplicity and beauty in the whole appearance of the quadrangle. The hall stands on the east, and the library on the southern side. In this latter division is placed a whole length statue of the founder, decorated with the emblems of pontifical dignity. A battlement,* which gradually rises to an apex on the more remote side, forms a judicious finish to the top, and a rich canopied niche is placed on this face of the building. The size of the quadrangle is 101 feet by 80; and the centre is ornamented by a curious cylindrical dial, constructed in 1605, by Charles Turnbull, a fellow of Corpus Christi.

Adjoining to the grounds in which Christ Church walks are formed, is a large building, erected at the beginning of the eighteenth century, by Dr. Turner, for the reception of students. This building is noble, decorous, and chaste, but contains no allusion to the architectural character of the original and more important parts of the edifice. In the centre is a pediment, supported by four Ionic pilasters; the windows, and other divisions, are entirely ornamented. Dr. Turner also formed a cloister in the adjacency of his new building, which is now used as a burial-place; but this liberal benefactor was himself interred in the College chapel.†

On the eastern side of the college, bordering on Merton Grove, apartments were built in the year 1737, for six gentlemen commoners, the utmost number allowed by the statutes.

The *Library* which Bishop Fox formed and endowed, with the noble

* This battlement formed no part of the founder's plan, and was not constructed till the reign of James I.

† Dr. Turner was president from 1688 to 1714; and is said by Whiston to have prevented an injury to his fortune by evading the oath of abjuration. He was a man of most beneficent mind, and left the bulk of his large property to public and charitable uses. In addition to other favors, he bestowed the sum of 6000l. on this College.

noble view of exalting the literary pursuits of his country, and in which Erasmus passed so many hours of tasteful study, remains nearly in its ancient state. It is commodious, but plain. No doubt but the correct judgment of the bishop and his advisers readily taught them that the best ornaments of a library are its books. Among these are a set of the Aldine Classics, collected by the founder; and the manuscripts of Bryan Twyne and Fulman, writers on the Antiquities of Oxford. There are two ancient portraits of the founder in this library; and his arms are inserted in the screen over the doorway.

The interior of the *Hall* has undergone considerable alterations, with the exception of its Gothic roof. It is in size fifty feet by twenty-five feet, and is now lined with wainscotting.

The chapel is divided into two compartments, the inner of which, seventy feet in length, and twenty-five in breadth, has a floor of black and white marble, with ornamented stalls, and a screen carved in cedar wood. The roof is of wainscot, with interspersed gilding. Little of this can be expected to remain as left by the founder, for the pious visitors appointed by Edward VI. committed indiscriminate havoc on the interior of collegiate places of worship. The chief present embellishments of the chapel were arranged in 1676, the expense of which was defrayed by the members of the society. The altar-piece has, however, been very lately presented by Sir Richard Worsley, and once formed a part of the collection of the Prince of Condé at Chantilly. The subject is the Adoration, painted by Rubens, and it is certainly one of the best productions of that delightful master.

A gallery has recently been constructed between the president's lodgings and the chapel, in which is placed an interesting picture of the founder, when he was aged and blind, by Corvus, a Fleming. In the same gallery, also, are portraits of the seven bishops who were sent to the Tower by command of James II.

Among several curiosities preserved in the college is the crosier of the founder.

Twelve prelates, and many other men of much distinction, have

profited by the foundation of Corpus Christi. The following appear to deserve particular remark:—Jewell, Bishop of Salisbury, one of the most amiable controversial writers of a tempestuous era. Dr. Richard Pococke, Bishop of Meath, the Oriental traveller. Dr. John Rainolds, an excellent scholar, and contemporary at college with Jewell, Dr. Turner, the liberal benefactor before noticed. Basil Kennet (fourteenth president of Corpus) the valuable writer on the Antiquities of Rome. Richard Edwards, an early dramatic writer, whose piece called Palœmon and Arcite afforded so much pleasure to Queen Elizabeth, when it was performed in Christ Church Hall, Oxford *. Brian Twyne. Hales. Dr. Fiddes, the learned biographer of Wolsey. Anstis, the herald. Sir Ashton Lever, and Thomas Day, Esq. an amiable man and a useful writer.

No alteration has been made in the number of fellows and scholars appointed by the founder.

CHRIST (or CHRIST'S) CHURCH.

The magnificence of Cardinal Wolsey's spirit was evinced in every walk of expenditure. The splendour of his domestic establishments, and the dignified pageantry with which he uniformly appeared in public, raised the envy of his contemporaries; but the princely liberality with which he encouraged the arts, and inculcated a love of letters, at a period when learning was struggling against disrepute, and would, perhaps, have sunk into a second

* The performance of this comedy was interrupted by a serious accident; a "scaffolding" fell down, and three men were killed on the spot. The queen is said to have been much affected by this event; but her sorrow was easily alleviated, for the power of the comic poet was so great, that it soon "made her laugh, whether she would or no." Two evenings were employed in the representation of the drama, and the queen was "filled with such wonderful pleasure, that she called to her the author, and promised what she would do for him, and talked to him in the most familiar way."—*Peshall apud Wood.*

Engraved by [illegible]

for the Beauties of England and Wales. [illegible]

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL,
Oxford.

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second night without the succour of a high and friendly hand, has procured him the grateful admiration of posterity. Wolsey had long promised to bestow on Oxford * a lasting mark of his esteem; and, in the year 1524, he commenced the great work now under examination.

As a preparatory step (and, probably, with a view of rendering the projected Establishment independent of his own personal fortunes) he procured bulls from the Pope for the suppression of several priories and nunneries, which, together, yielded an annual revenue of nearly 2000l. An income to this amount he was authorized, by letters patent from the king, to settle on his new institution, to which he gave the name of Cardinal College, and the buildings of which he commenced on the site of an ancient priory dedicated to St. Fridiswida.

The original design of Wolsey was extensive beyond precedent. The society was to consist of one hundred and sixty persons, the chief of whom were to be engaged in the study of the sciences, divinity, canon and civil law, the arts, physic, and polite literature. Divine service was to be continually performed; and he had collected the best architects of the age to project a concentration of beauties in the arrangement of the buildings. But, before these grand intentions could be carried into entire effect, the cardinal experienced disgrace; and the revenues bestowed by Wolsey, together with the incomplete portions of building raised under his inspection, were pathetically consigned by him to the fostering clemency of the king.

* The chief events in Wolsey's Life are so well known, that it does not appear necessary to present them here, in an epitomised form. It may be desirable, however, to state the progress of his early connexion with the University of Oxford. He was entered of Magdalen College when a mere child, and was admitted to the degree of Bachelor of Arts at the age of fifteen. He soon obtained his master's degree, and was then appointed teacher of Magdalen grammar school. He was made bursar of the college in 1498, at which period he was about twenty-seven years old; and he left the University in the year 1500.

Henry, in the year 1532, yielded to the intreaties of the University, and became a patron to the foundation; but he was determined to preclude the discarded favourite from all nominal participation in the merit of the undertaking, and he refounded the society, under the term of "King Henry VIII.'s College, in Oxford." By the charter now conferred he endowed the institution with a revenue equal to that intended by Wolsey, and directed the gross sum to be applied to the maintenance of a dean and twelve canons, who should form a body corporate.

The College remained thus organized till so momentous a change took place in Henry's views, that every establishment connected with the church, and yet dependent for its chief support on his individual protection, must needs tremble for its security.

In 1545, the charter was surrendered by the dean and canons to the hands of the king; but for a purpose which tended to the eventual honour of the institution. Among the dissolved religious houses on the ruins of which Henry erected bishop's sees, Oseney Abbey, contiguous to Oxford, was one. But those increasing wants, which his extravagance produced, led him to reduce this abbey, and to translate the Cathedral church to St. Fridiswida's. The institution then became an appendage to the cathedral, and both its former names were lost in that of "The Cathedral Church of Christ, in Oxford, of King Henry VIII.'s foundation." This foundation was now declared to consist of a bishop, with his archdeacon (removed from the church of Lincoln, in which diocese Oxford had hitherto remained,) and a dean and eight canons. The principal estates were, at the same time, consigned to the persons recognised as forming the chapter, on condition of their maintaining three public professors of divinity, Hebrew, and Greek; one hundred students in theology, arts, and philosophy; eight chaplains, and a suitable choir.

The munificent character of the foundation, and the splendour arising from regal patronage, appear to have deterred all ranks from the least thought of assistant benefaction for many years sub-

subsequent to the reign of Henry. In the 17th century some few benefactors arose, among whom we find Dr. Busby of Westminster. That celebrated schoolmaster bequeathed a sum of money for the institution of a Catechetical Lecture, to be read in one of the parish churches of Oxford by a member of this society. Bishop Fell, likewise, contributed ten exhibitions of 10l. per annum each; and, more recently, Dr. Lee, physician to King George II. left 20,000l. chiefly for the purpose of erecting an anatomical theatre.

The principal buildings of Christ Church consist of the cathedral, two spacious quadrangles, and two smaller courts. The great west front conveys the ideas of amplitude, magnificence, and power. In the centre is the gateway, over which rises a stately tower, somewhat eccentric in its architectural character, but yet massive, dignified, and possessed of much beauty. This tower was begun by Wolsey, but completed by Sir Christopher Wren, in 1681, according to a plan of his own forming *. A series of uniform building, adapted to the reception of students, extends on either side, and both extremities are terminated by double turrets, with an elevated bay window worked between. The whole length of the front is 382 feet.

The grand western quadrangle, which is entered through this gateway, is the only part of the extensive buildings in which Wolsey was enabled to exercise his architectural taste and princely spirit. Every particular connected with so munificent a foundation must necessarily be interesting to the reader. On March 20, 1525, the Cardinal laid the first stone, in the presence of the chief members of the University. On this occasion he

 made

* In this tower is suspended the much-famed bell, called Great Tom, which originally belonged to Oseney Abbey, but was recast in 1680. It weighs 17,000 pounds, and bears this inscription: *Magnus Thomas clusius Oxoniensis.* When this bell tolls at nine in the evening, the scholars are directed by the University statutes to retire to their respective colleges. It may be worthy of remark, that the celebrated Glee, intituled the "Merry Christ Church bells," was written by Dean Aldrich.

made an eloquent speech; and the company then repaired to the church of St. Fridiswida, where a Latin sermon was preached by the Bishop of Lincoln, on the text, *Sapientia ædificavit sibi domum*. A splendid entertainment closed the ceremonies of the day.

The quadrangle thus founded unites simplicity with Gothic grandeur. The buildings are finely proportioned, and the whole court is nearly parallelogramical, being 264 feet by 261 feet in the clear. The hall fills more than half of the southern side; the east and north sides are occupied by splendid ranges of apartments for the dean and canons. The kitchen is constructed on the south of the hall; and is, perhaps, the noblest building of its kind in Europe *. A fine terrace faces the whole of the buildings, and a balustrade of stone ornaments the top. In the centre of the court is a basin, in which is placed the statue of Mercury. The back front of the great tower of entrance is ornamented by a statue of Queen Anne, and by the arms of Henry VIII.; of Cardinal Wolsey; of the see of Oxford, &c. Over a gateway on the north-east is a statue of Bishop Fell; and the entrance to the hall is surmounted by a statue of Wolsey, gratefully placed in that situation by Trelawney, Bishop of Winchester, in the year 1719. This latter figure is executed with spirit, and has been much admired. The sculptor has attended to custom, and has only given a side-view of the Cardinal's face; but we cannot admit that the expression of attitude imparted to the figure is happily imagined. The whole evinces passionate pride rather than

* This was the first part of the building reared under the auspices of Wolsey. The singularity of such a circumstance caused many satirical remarks. Among others, the following mock inscription was placed on the walls:—

"Non stabit illa Domus, aliis fundata rapinis,
Aut ruet, aut alter raptor habebit eam."

This, as is observed by Chalmers, at least proved prophetic.

than the composed austerity which is the last result of haughtiness.

Of this magnificent court only the hall, the kitchen, the east, the south, and a part of the western side, were built during the life of Wolsey *. The remaining divisions were completed by Dr. John Fell, in 1665. At this time the basin was formed in the centre, and the statue of Mercury (which, perhaps, some examiners may deem unworthy of its situation,) was placed on the spot where formerly a stone pulpit had stood, from which Wickliffe first delivered his reforming opinions.

The second great quadrangle of Christ Church is termed Peckwater Court, and chiefly occupies the site of two inns, or hostels, the one called Peckwater (from the name of its original possessor) and the other Vine Hall. The architecture of this court is classical and august. The southern side consists entirely of the library and annexed apartments (begun in 1716, from a design by Dr. Clarke;) the other divisions contain superb ranges of lodgings for students, and were built in 1705, under the inspection of Dean Aldrich. The expense of the undertaking was defrayed by the dean and canons, in conjunction with many of the students, and several of the nobility and distinguished commoners, who had received education in the college. The whole elevation is of a classical and dignified character. The front of the library is 141 feet in length, adorned with the massive pillars of Corinthian order. Each of the other sides contains three stories, the lower of which is rustic, and supports a range of architecture of the Ionic order. Pilasters are placed between each division of windows, except the five which are central in each side, and over these is a projecting pediment sustained by three-quarter columns with Ionic capitals. An entablature and balustrade of stone finish the whole. From this description it will be evident

* It is supposed that he intended the whole quadrangle to have a cloister on the inner side. The lines of the arches are very apparent. In the year 1809, a fire occurred in this quadrangle. It rose on the southern side, but was, fortunately, extinguished without affecting the front of the building.

the south side of the church; but being nearly destroyed in the conflagration which took place in consequence of the assault made on the Danes, in 1002, it was neglected until 1180, when it was removed to its present situation, and was visited by crowds of the superstitious *. A new shrine was raised in the year 1289; but this was destroyed in the reign of Henry VIII. so that the presumed bones of the saint, which were not interred, but merely deposited on the shrine, are supposed by Wood † to have been irrecoverably lost, "while those afterwards shewn in two silken bags were only feigned."

The subject is scarcely deserving of many words, but we cannot avoid saying that the inference drawn by Wood is by no means of a conclusive nature. The bones were of easy removal; and, considering the value placed on them by the interested, or superstitious, it appears much more likely that the ancient fragments were, in the first instance, secured by the priests, and that King Henry's visitors were made the dupes of "feigned" relics.

Be that as it may, the mouldering fragments retained by the devotees remained unnoticed till the reign of Elizabeth, at which time they were again brought under consideration by the following singular circumstance. When Peter Martyr, the Reformer, visited England under the protection of the Duke of Somerset and Archbishop Cranmer, he became a canon of Christ Church. Martyr went abroad on the accession of Queen Mary, and died at Zurich; but his wife, Catharine, died at Oxford, in 1551, and was buried near the monument of St. Fridiswida. In the reign of Queen Mary one of those absurd posthumous trials, not unusual in the early ages of church controversy, was instituted in regard to this female heretic, and her body was taken from its consecrated place of sepulture, and contemptuously buried beneath

* A retired oratory was erected at the back of the shrine, the steps of stone leading to which are much worn by the tread of devotees.

† As quoted by Chalmers, to which writer we are indebted for the ensuing particulars relative to Peter Martyr's wife.

neath a dunghill, where it lay until 1561, when it was restored to its former situation with much ceremony. At the same time the reputed bones of St. Fridiswida were removed from the silken bags in which they had lately reposed, and "were ordered to be mixed and interred in the same grave with those of Martyr's wife, to prevent the power of distinguishing them, should the age of superstition return. But whether these bones were deposited on the spot where Martyr's wife was first buried, or under what is now shewn as the monument of St. Fridiswida, seems doubtful."

Near to the shrine of St. Fridiswida is the rich monument of Lady Elizabeth Montacute *, who died in 1353, with her effigy in the costume of the time. Her dress, even down to the wrists, is enamelled with gold and the different colours expressive of nobility.

In the same range is the tomb of Guimond, the first prior, with his effigy in a recumbent posture, the feet resting on a lion. The robes of his dress have been richly coloured, and spotted with gold. He had been chaplain to King Henry I. and died in 1149.

No inscription remains on either of these monuments; but many eminent names of a more recent date stand recorded on various contiguous tablets.

The ancient painted windows of Christ Church were chiefly removed when the internal alterations took place in 1630; but the new windows then placed in their room were much injured by the fanatics in the civil war. Some, however, were preserved; among which are three by Abraham Van Linge: the subjects, the Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah; Christ disputing with the Doctors; and the Story of Jonah. In addition to these must be remarked a window in the north aisle, expressive of the delivery of St. Peter from Prison, executed by Isaac Oliver, at the age of eighty-four, and a portrait on glass, of Robert King, the

* A liberal benefactress to the priory. She presented the meadow on which the fine walks appertaining to Christ Church have been since formed.

the first Bishop of Oxford. This portrait was placed in its present situation (the window immediately over his monument) soon after the bishop's death, and was removed during the rage of the fanatical war. The colouring is extremely vivid and the whole piece finely executed.

The chapel in which Latin prayers are read opens into the eastern cloister. This noble room is believed to have been built in the reign of Henry III. and contains many estimable portraits. Choir service is performed in the cathedral * every day during term.

Few rooms are more impressively august than the *Hall* of Christ Church, which was entirely built under the direction of Wolsey. This grand refectory is 115 feet long, by 40 in width; and is fifty feet in height. The ceiling is of Irish oak, beautifully carved, with such occasional insertions of gilding as give alternate lustre and relief, while they do not detract from the sober majesty of the general effect. The windows are of intersected Gothic, and one, in a recess on the southern side, is among the finest specimens of that mode of architectural disposal. At the upper end of the hall is an ascent of three steps, and the whole flooring is composed of stone. The sides are of pannelled wainscot; but the great ornament of these consists in an extensive collection of portraits, among which are many that afford equal interest from subject and style of execution. The following appear to be the most striking:—an original half-length of Wolsey, with a perspective view of the hall introduced through a window in the corner of the picture. A fine whole length of Henry VIII. Queen Elizabeth, drawn with a slender waist, an immense hoop, and the sleeves of her dress thickly padded. The face is that of middle life, and is far from unpleasing. She has in her hand one

* Spacious as is the church which Henry VIII. thought worthy to be constituted a cathedral, it was too contracted for the magnificent views of Wolsey; and he had, accordingly, begun to erect a new church, or chapel, on the north side of his quadrangle, the foundation of which may be now traced in the gardens attached to that division.

one of those fans of feathers which were constructed during her reign with so much cost and delicacy. This picture was presented by Lord Dartmouth, in whose family it had been long preserved; but the artist is not known. Compton, Bishop of London, by Sir Peter Lely; a fine portrait, the figure sedate, and the colouring chaste. Bishop Saunderson, an original, by Riley. Dr. Busby, his hand on a book, and a pupil in attendance. This is, perhaps, the most attractive portrait in the hall. The face possesses more of judgment than severity; the colouring is warm, and the whole picture replete with character and animation.

The roof of the stairway which leads to the hall is vaulted, and ornamented with bold and beautiful varieties of Gothic embellishment. This roof is supported by a single pillar, calculated to surprise, on account of its slender dimensions, rather than to add correspondent splendour to the effect of the whole.

Under the hall is constructed the common room, in which are several good portraits, and a bust of Dr. Busby, by Rysbach.

The building formed in Peckwater Square, for the original intention of a library alone, is now divided into two ranges, in the upper of which are reposited the numerous and valuable books belonging to the society; and in the lower is placed an extensive collection of pictures bequeathed to Christ Church by General Guise.

The part used as a library is 141 feet long; thirty feet wide; and thirty-seven feet high. On one side is a gallery, and over every class of books are symbols, in stucco, allusive to that peculiar branch of literature, well imagined, and beautifully executed. The ceiling, also, is richly ornamented with stucco work, and the recesses are adorned with an exquisite bust of Marcus Modius, a physician, now chiefly known by this sculptured semblance of his countenance, and with a statue of a female figure resting the hand on a boy's shoulder. This latter piece is likewise fine, and was brought from abroad by a late student of Christ Church. The books contained in this very splendid room are supposed to form one of the best collections in the kingdom; and the pro-

bable correctness of such a supposition must be allowed when we observe that among the contributors are to be named Burton, (author of the Anatomy of Melancholy;) Dean Aldrich, Bishop Fell, Dr. Mead, Charles Boyle, Earl of Orrery *, and Dr. Wake, Archbishop of Canterbury. The library is also rich in manuscripts, prints, and coins.

The whole ground-floor of the building is occupied by the paintings bequeathed to Christ Church, by Brigadier General Guise, in 1765. This extensive collection was formed by the general at an immense expense, and consists almost entirely of works by the ancient masters. So grand an assemblage of pictures deserves more attention than our limits will allow. Pieces warm from the pencil of Raphael, Guido, Titian, the Caracci, &c. are ranged on every side; but our notice of their claims on admiration must necessarily be confined to a very few subjects.

The spacious division of building allotted to the reception of these paintings is formed into two rooms; and over the chief entrance is placed a bust of the liberal donor, by Bacon. Among the pictures in the apartment on the right are the following:—Three Ladies studying Music, by Titian, the colouring beautiful, and the light thrown in with much felicity. A dying Magdalen, supported by Cherubs, by Domenichino. Dreadfully fine! Death is in every line of the expiring figure, and the alternate wonder and fresh-coloured playfulness expressed in the faces of the cherubs produce a striking contrast. A most ghastly Medusa's head, by Rubens, the character that of disgusting anile jocoseness, and the snakes appearing to hiss as they curl round the hideous temples. A Descent from the Cross, by Corregio. Rebecca at the Well, and Abraham's servant presenting her with bracelets, by Guido.

Over the door of the left hand room is placed a bust of the late Bishop of Durham, by Bacon. Among the many fine paintings in

* His lordship's contribution consisted of ten thousand volumes. His noble son and successor pointedly regrets, in his Life of Swift, this alienation of the paternal library.

In this range are two portraits, by Titian, of a Venetian nobleman, and the great Duke D'Alva: the features of the latter possess all the marble frigidity to be expected from his character. A sophonisba, by Domenichino, the figures as large as life. The colouring of this piece is remarkably warm, and the expression fine. The Martyrdom of St. Laurence, by Tintoretto. This is a large picture, and some of the figures are eminently good, but the subject is not sufficiently dignified in all its bearings to allow of any resemblance of sublimity in general effect. The moment of action chosen by Tintoretto is that in which St. Laurence is turned on the gridiron by the application of an instrument to his thigh. Lest the spectator should fail to observe that the saint was gradually martyred, a small pair of bellows is introduced in the fore-ground. Our Saviour's Last Supper with his Disciples, by the same master, displays more taste and judgment. In this piece the candle-light tints are extremely well disposed. The Family of the Caracci, represented in a butcher's shop, by Annibal Caracci. This large and eccentric picture is replete with spirit, character, and fidelity. St. Elizabeth, with St. John, when a child, musing upon a cross made of reeds, by Lionardo di Vinci. The flesh and drapery fine; but the faces are perhaps deficient in that loveliness so necessary to the adornment of an exalted religious subject. A Madona, by Raphael, in his first manner. It is impossible to quit this collection without noticing a half-length portrait of General Guise, by Sir Joshua Reynolds. The colouring and expression are truly excellent.

The entrance-passage and stair-case of the library are enriched with many pieces of sculpture, among which are a statue of Locke, by Roubilliac, and busts of George I. and II. Dr. Trevor, Bishop of Durham; Dr. Freind; Archbishops Boulter and Robinson, and Dr. Frewen. The latter bust, by Roubilliac, is particularly fine. The dryness and wrinkles of extreme old age are happily expressed; the pupil of the eye is evidently deadened, and the sight grown dim.

The Theatre of Anatomy, founded and endowed, as has been before stated, by Dr. Lee, physician to King George II. contains a good collection of anatomical preparations. The grounds appertaining to Christ Church are very fine; and the chief walk, a quarter of a mile in length, shaded with elms on either side, seems equally calculated for the ornament of the college and the use of the students.

A satisfactory account of the men of splendid fortune and eminent acquirements who have profited by the learned institution of Christ Church, would occupy the whole of an extensive volume. From the earliest period of its permanent foundation, this college has been the resort of many among the prime of the English nobility and gentry. The pulpit, the senate, the learned professions, and nearly every class of votive literature, have received some of their brightest ornaments from the great Cardinal's institution. A few only can be mentioned in the present pages; but most of the following names have so many rivals in worth, that the selection would almost appear to be invidious: Dr. Fell, Bishop of Oxford; Dean Aldrich; Atterbury, Bishop of Rochester; Dr. Robert South; Archbishop Wake; Edward Sackville, Earl of Dorset; Lord Lyttelton; William, Earl Mansfield; Lord Bolingbroke; Charles Boyle, Earl of Orrery; Villiers, Duke of Buckingham; Sir Philip Sidney; Sir Thomas Hanmer; LOCKE; the learned and indefatigable *Camden*, who certainly profited much by the labours of Leland, but whose Britannia must still be considered a prodigy; Dr. Freind; Casaubon; Penn,* the founder of Pennsylvania. Among the persons chiefly celebrated for poetical genius, we find Ben Jonson; Otway; Randolph; Edmund Smith, a classical writer and elegant scholar; Gilbert West; John Philips; and George Colman.

To the number of students named by the last charter, one has since been added by the liberality of William Thurston, Esq. of London. No other change has taken place in the constitution of this

* This able, but eccentric, man, was a commoner of Christ Church, but was expelled in consequence of some irregularities of conduct.

this college, except that Queen Elizabeth directed, in 1561, that there should be an annual election from Westminster-school. The other vacancies are filled at the option of the Dean and Chapter. The society now consists (independently of the bishop and his archdeacon, as named in the charter,) of a dean,* eight canons, one hundred and one students, three professors, eight chaplains, and a suitable choir. There is no visitor but the king, or persons appointed by him.

EXETER COLLEGE

consists principally of one quadrangle, the front of which is 220 feet in length. The chief gate of entrance is placed in the centre, and is surmounted by a tower of imposing magnificence. The two faces of this tower are of similar construction; the basement is rustic, and then ensues a plinth, on which are raised pilasters of the Ionic order, supporting a semicircular pediment, ornamented with armorial bearings and various festoons. A balustrade at the top bestows much lightness on the whole. The roof of the gateway is arched, and finely adorned with the arms of benefactors. This tower and gateway are beautiful as separate objects, but each extensive lateral range of front is Gothic, with an embattled parapet; and thus the eye is indelibly offended by an inconsistency destructive of all particular attraction.

The interior of the quadrangle is nearly a parallelogram of 135 feet, and is simple, uniform, and pleasing. The chapel, which occupies a large portion of one side, is a neat and solid Gothic structure; and the adjoining residence of the rector, though a modern erection, is judiciously made to correspond with the character of the surrounding architecture. The hall is ascended by a flight of steps, and agrees with the other parts of the quadrangle in possessing an embattled parapet.

 Although

* The Deanery of Christ Church has been usually attended with promotion to a bishopric, and is often allowed to be held *in Commendam* by the person so promoted.

Although the chief buildings of this college now evince so much desirable regularity of disposal, it does not appear that any such consistency of architectural design formed a part of the founder's scheme. Additions have been made as incidental liberality afforded means; and, therefore, on the whole, great praise is due to those who have superintended the augmentation of the structure.

This college was founded by Walter de Stapledon, Bishop of Exeter, about the year 1315, and is intimately blended with another well-intended foundation from the same hand, that of Hert, or Hart, Hall, now termed Hertford College.

Walter de Stapledon descended from a good family, and is supposed to have been born at Aunery, near Great Torrington, in Devonshire. He was advanced to the bishopric of Exeter in 1307; and by King Edward II. he was appointed lord-treasurer, and was employed in many weighty matters of state: but, when the royal household pursued separate interests, and the sinister designs of the queen became apparent, De Stapledon adhered to his ill-fated master, and, consequently, fell a victim to party fury. He was seized by the deluded populace on October 15, 1326, as he was walking in a public street of London, and was beheaded by them near the north door of St. Paul's church. His body was contumeliously buried in a heap of sand, at the back of his own house near Temple-bar; but a monument has since been constructed to the honour of his memory in Exeter cathedral, by the rector and fellows of this college.

It was in the year 1312 that Bishop Stapledon first evinced liberality of intention in regard to the University of Oxford. He then purchased Hert-hall, and a contiguous messuage, for the accommodation of twelve scholars; but, three years afterwards, he procured premises on the site of the present college, and removed the rector and scholars, though he still retained the privileges of the original foundation charter, and appeared to consider the former institution as a permanent appendage to the latter. According to the statutes now delivered, the society was

to

to consist of thirteen persons, one to be instructed in canon-law, or theology, and the others in philosophy. Eight were to be chosen from Devonshire, and four from Cornwall.

New benefactors soon arose; and, in 1404, Edmund Stafford, Bishop of Exeter, altered the statutes and added two fellowships from the diocese of Salisbury, besides presenting upwards of two hundred marks, in money, and many books and ornaments, to the library and chapel.

Sir William Petre, (founder of the noble house distinguished by his name,) was likewise a benefactor of eminence. This able statesman concerned himself so little with factious politics that he found employment in the four dissimilar courts of Henry VIII. Edward VI. and the two sisters, Mary and Elizabeth. A large portion of the wealth accumulated by his unremitting exertions he dedicated to such acts of liberality as were calculated to advance the solid interests of his country. In regard to Exeter College, he founded eight fellowships, from five specified counties, or from any others in which he or his descendants might possess estates. Sir William Petre, also, procured a new body of statutes for the college, and a regular deed of incorporation.

Among other benefactors of note must be mentioned King Charles I. who endowed one fellowship; Sir John Aokland, who contributed towards the improvement of the buildings, and to other useful purposes; Samuel Hill, rector of Warlegan, in Cornwall, the founder of four scholarships, two from Devonshire, and two from Cornwall; Sir John Maynard, who instituted two lectures, the one in Divinity, and the other on the Oriental languages; Lady Shiers, of Slyfield-house in Surrey, and Dr. George Hakewill.

There was not any chapel comprehended in the foundation of Bishop Stapledon, but the society speedily obtained a licence to erect one, and the building was completed in the year 1326. In 1624, this structure was converted into a library; and, in the same year, the present chapel (which was begun in 1622) was finished, chiefly at the expense of Dr. Hakewill. This is a

neat edifice, and possesses the peculiarity of *two aisles*. It is lighted by eight Gothic windows, on each of which is inscribed "*Domus mea Domus Orationis*," the text chosen by the celebrated Dr. Prideaux, who preached the consecration sermon. The ceiling is arched, and painted to imitate intersected groinwork. In the south aisle is a good portrait of Dr. Hakewill, placed there at his own request.

The hall is a handsome Gothic building, erected by Sir John Ackland in the early part of the seventeenth century. The roof and screen are of carved oak; the sides are ornamented by several portraits, among which are two of the founder, the one ancient, and the other painted and presented by Peters in 1780.

The premature death of Bishop Stapledon caused his foundation to be left in so incomplete a state, that the College possessed no library till about the year 1383, when a small room was erected for the reception of the many valuable books bequeathed to the society. This room, though subsequently enlarged, was found too limited in general plan for its intended purpose, and the books were removed, as has been already observed, to the original chapel; but, in 1709, an accidental fire consumed the interior of that building and the principal part of the works there deposited. This ravage was quickly repaired as far as was practicable; and, in 1778, a complete new library was erected; at which time the old chapel (the only remaining part of the original buildings) was pulled down. The plan of the modern edifice was given by the Rev. William Crowe, the present public orator. This building is judiciously sedate and plain, and contains, among other valuable articles, a fine collection of Aldine classics.

Beyond the quadrangle are gardens, highly agreeable, and disposed with much taste.

"Exeter College," says Fuller, in his Church History, "consisteth chiefly of Cornish and Devonshire men, the gentry of which latter, Queen Elizabeth used to say, were courtiers by thei

their birth. And, as these western men do bear away the bell for might and sleight in wrestling, so the schollars here have always acquitted themselves with credit in *palæstra literaria.*" Several of the names now subjoined, as forming a part of the eminent persons connected with this house, pleasingly confirm the truth of Fuller's observation:—Dr. Prideaux, Bishop of Worcester, a man of great learning, and an extensive writer;* Archbishop Secker; Sir John Fortescue, one of the ablest lawyers of the fifteenth century; Henry Cary, Lord Falkland; the gallant James, Duke Hamilton, sacrificed for his attachment to Charles I.; Sir Simon Baskerville, the most popular physician of the seventeenth century; Sir John Doddridge, judge and antiquary; Diggory Wheare, the first Camden professor; Lord Chief-Justice Rolle; Henry Carey, second Earl of Monmouth, an elegant scholar and writer; Anthony Ashley Cooper, Lord Shaftesbury; Maundrell, the traveller; Upton, editor of Epictetus, and commentator on Shakspeare.

The present members of this society are a rector, twenty-five fellows, one scholar, who is Bible clerk, and ten exhibitioners.

HERTFORD COLLEGE.

In our preceding notice of Exeter College we have observed that Bishop Stapledon first placed his establishment at Hertford (corruptly Hert, or Hart,) Hall. When he removed the scholars of his

 foundation,

* Dr. Prideaux entered the college without money and without friends. Before he repaired to Oxford he had unsuccessfully endeavoured to procure the appointment of Parish clerk at Ugborrow, in Devonshire! He was, for some time, employed as a menial in the kitchen of Exeter College. While so engaged his promptness and diligence attracted the notice of the fellows, and they took him into protection, scarcely more to his honour than their own. By King Charles I. he was nominated to the bishopric of Worcester, but the speedy ascendancy of the fanatical party prevented his enjoying the fruits of his promotion.

foundation, Hert Hall still continued open as a place of education. The power of naming the principals was vested in the members of Exeter College until the year 1740, when Dr. Newton (then principal) obtained a royal charter for converting the Hall into a perpetual College; the society to consist of a principal; four senior, and eight junior, fellows; eight probationary students; twenty-four actual students, and four scholars. To this new foundation he gave the title of Hertford College, but directed in the statutes that any other name might be affixed by a more extensive benefactor. Such a friend, however, has not arisen. The buildings remain incomplete, and the college has been without a principal since the year 1805.

According to the plan of Dr. Newton the whole structure was to form a quadrangle, containing a chapel, hall, and library, the principal's lodgings, and apartments for the society. But he only succeeded in building the chapel, the principal's lodgings, and a small portion on the south-east of the intended quadrangle. No part of these seems likely to be interesting in description.

Of the ancient appendages to Hert Hall, the refectory, built in the reign of Elizabeth, the old principal's lodgings, with a kitchen and some chambers over them, and the gatehouse, above which is a library, are still remaining.

Although now comparatively deserted, this spot has produced some eminent men, among whom we must name the amiable and elegant *Lord Buckhurst*, an able statesman, and author of Gorboduc, the first English tragedy in blank verse; *Selden*; Dr. Donne, the satirist (afterwards removed to Cambridge;) Sir William Waller, the Parliamentary general; Sir Richard Baker, the Chronicler. And, even since Hert Hall has become a nominal College, it has afforded education to one of the most distinguished statesmen of modern times, *Charles James Fox*.*

JESUS

* His tutor was Dr. Newcome, afterwards Archbishop of Armagh.

JESUS COLLEGE

Was founded by Queen Elizabeth, but the idea of the foundation did not originate with that sovereign, and the College is not much indebted to her bounty.

Hugh ap Rice, or Price, a native of Brecknock, who was educated at Oseney Abbey, and was afterwards a doctor of civil law, first Prebendary of Rochester, and Treasurer of St. David's, observing that his countrymen were scarcely ever noticed in collegiate endowments, formed the generous design of instituting an establishment at Oxford peculiarly for their benefit. In pursuance of this intention, he intreated Queen Elizabeth "to found a College, on which he might bestow a certain property." The queen acceded to his wish, and granted a charter of foundation, dated June 27th 1571, by which the society was directed to consist of a principal, eight fellows, and eight scholars, for the maintenance of whom Dr. Price was permitted to convey estates to the yearly value of 160l. He, likewise, bestowed upwards of 1500l. on the building, besides leaving a sum of money by will, which was suffered to accumulate till the beginning of the seventeenth century, when it amounted to 700l. The queen's liberality was confined to a donation of timber from her forests of Shotover and Stow. Dr. Price died in 1574, at which period only the front of the building and the southern side of the first quadrangle were completed. It is probable that, when he solicited Elizabeth to take on herself the merit of founding the College, he was fully aware of the insufficiency of his own resources, and had calculated on assistance from the royal purse. No aid was received from the foundress, and the estates conveyed by Dr. Price became so unproductive, that the progress of the buildings was soon suspended. But private munificence shortly formed an ample recompense for the failure of regal bounty. The buildings were gradually completed on an extensive scale, and various liberal donations

tions and bequests placed the finances of the College on a firm basis.

Among numerous benefactors, well deserving of honourable mention, were Sir Eubule Thelwall, who conduced liberally towards the buildings, and procured a new charter, dated June 1st 1622. Herbert Westphaling, Bishop of Hereford, in 1602. Henry Rowlands, Bishop of Bangor, in 1609. King Charles I. Francis Mansell, D. D. Principal of the College. Sir Leoline Jenkins, Knt. and Principal from 1661 to 1673. This benevolent contributor left estates for the improvement of the principal's salary, and that of the fellows and scholars. By his means, also, three new fellowships, and two scholarships, were added. In 1613. Dr. Williams, Principal, bequeathed property for the foundation of a logic-lecture; and, ten years afterwards, Sir Thomas Canon, Deputy Lieutenant of the county of Pembroke, founded a catechetical lecture. Edward Merrick, M. A. Treasurer of St. David's, in 1713, bequeathed his whole estate to the benefit of the society. The affairs of the institution thus gradually became so prosperous, that it was necessary frequently to obtain royal charters permitting the College to hold revenues to an additional amount. The places from which the additional fellows and scholars were directed to be chosen by the respective founders are the counties of Brecknock, Caernarvon, Monmouth, Denbigh, Pembroke, and Cardigan; and the schools of Caermarthenshire, Bangor, Beaumaris, Llyn, Ruthen, Abergavenny, and the diocese of St. Asaph. In almost every instance a preference is to be given to the relations of the founder.

The buildings of Jesus College consist of two quadrangles, the first 90 feet by 70; and the second, or interior, 100 feet by 90. The front towards the street was rebuilt in the year 1756, but is a heavy erection, devoid of character or interest, and appears to greater disadvantage when compared with the interior of the quadrangle, which is entirely Gothic. The chapel, a low but pleasing structure, with a small turret on the western end, stands on the north, and the hall on the west. The remainder of the

court is occupied by ranges of apartments three stories high, the attic being formed by projecting windows in the gable roof, over each of which is a sharply pointed pediment.

The second quadrangle is a more elevated and interesting combination. Three sides are strictly uniform, with small, double, Gothic windows, and a range of pinnacles on the top. The hall forms a pleasing portion of the fourth side, the bay window and embattled parapet of which possess considerable beauty. The sides of this quadrangle, on the south and north, were completed in 1640, under the management of Dr. Mansell, then Principal; and he held sufficient money, in consequence of various liberal contributions, to finish the whole court; but the intervention of the civil war restrained his exertions, and he felt compelled to abandon the undertaking as hopeless: he, therefore, returned the sums in his possession to the generous donors. In 1676 Sir Leoline Jenkins completed the remainder of this arduous task at his own expense.

The *Hall*, which forms so pleasing an ornament to both quadrangles, was built early in the seventeenth century, with a residue of the original legacy of Dr. Price, aided by contributions from the society, and principally by that of Sir Eubule Thelwall. It is a spacious, but plain, room, and contains several portraits, among which are those of Charles I. by Vandyke, a fine picture, but, perhaps, not one of the happiest efforts of that great artist, who sometimes was enabled to bestow almost superhuman grandeur on his copies of the elevated human form. Queen Elizabeth; Sir Leoline Jenkins; and an interesting piece representing Sir Eubule Thelwall when a child, with his mother.

The present *Library* is above the common room, on the west side of the inner quadrangle, and was erected by Sir Leoline Jenkins, in 1677. It is a spacious room, and has a gallery to the whole extent of one side. Among the books are those of the celebrated Lord Herbert of Cherbury, who would have passed to posterity in the character of a philosopher, if he had not taken pains, in the memoirs of his own life, to prove that he was, in fact,

fact, only an argumentative knight-errant. Still, when Lord Herbert was more than an arm's length from the hilt of his sword, and had placed on one side the romantic scarf of his knighthood, he could think with justice, and deliver his thoughts with candour. His life of Henry VIII. was undertaken by order of Charles I. and it should never be forgotten that he passed severe censures on arbitrary government, in the very pages which he presented to the notice of his sometimes misled sovereign.

The *Chapel* was chiefly built by contributions from many affluent and distinguished personages in the principality of Wales, and was finished in 1621. Since that period, however, it has been lengthened on the east, and now consists of three divisions. One screen separates the body from the chancel, and another shuts the ante-chapel from view of the main interior of the building. The roof is formed into compartments, richly adorned, and the whole is as pleasingly arranged as the character of the mixed Gothic, when applied to the inner parts of buildings, will allow. The altar-piece is a copy of Guido's well known picture, representing St. Michael's triumph over the Devil.

Among the curiosities shewn at this College are, an immense bowl of gilded silver, which weighs 278 ounces, and will contain ten gallons, presented by a late Sir Watkin Williams Wynne; a metal watch, given by Charles I.; and a huge stirrup, pressed, as it is said, by the foot of Queen Elizabeth, when she honoured the University with a visit.

The following are some of the distinguished persons connected with Jesus College: Sir Eubule Thelwall, son of John Thelwall, of Batharvan Park, in the county of Denbigh, Esq.; Sir Leoline Jenkins, who entered of this College in 1641, and remained till after the death of Charles I. He then retired to the seat of Sir John Aubrey, in Wales; which, as a mansion left void by sequestration, afforded shelter to several other eminent loyalists. In this retreat he educated the son of Sir John, and several other children of distinguished cavaliers; but was, at length, ordered into confinement by the Parliamentary government, as a fomenter of

of rebellion! He was, however, liberated at the request of Dr. Wilkins, Warden of Wadham, and he removed, with his pupils, to Oxford, in 1651. After various subsequent persecutions he received the reward due to his loyalty, since he was not only elected Principal of his College, but was employed, on the Restoration, in many high departments of the state. This eminent scholar and loyalist is buried in the College chapel. William Lloyd, Bishop of Worcester, one of the seven prelates ordered to the tower by James II.; Dr. Wynne, Bishop of St. Asaph; David Powel, the antiquary; John Davis, the Lexicographer; Rees Prichard, a Welch poet of great popularity; Edward Lloyd, an antiquary and botanist of very high tatainments; and, more recently, the two able writers in theology, Dr. Henry Owen, and Dr. Worthington.

LINCOLN COLLEGE.

Oxford formed for so long a period a part of the diocese of Lincoln, that we naturally look for distinguished patronage among the prelates who formerly enjoyed that see. Richard Flemming, or Flemmynge, the founder of this College, was born at Crofton, in Yorkshire, and was educated at University College, where his talents and acquirements procured him unusual honours. In the early part of life he was zealously attached to the principles of Wickliffe, and is even said to have made some converts among persons of very high distinction. But he appears to have been a man of ardent feelings and active imagination. His zeal was too passionate to be lasting, and he shortly exercised equal ardour and eloquence in vindication of the antient high-church intolerance. Be his party what it might he was never satisfied with the safe middle course of gentleness and sobriety: he had been violent in support of Wikcliffe; and, when he had changed his opinions, he was so strenuous in enmity that he condescended to execute that decree of the Council of Constance, which directed that the

bones of Wickliffe should be taken from their place of sepulture, and publicly burned.

Flemming was advanced to the see of Lincoln in 1420, and four years afterwards distinguished himself so much in a Council which was called at Sienna, for the purpose of arranging proceedings against the continental Reformers, that Pope Martin V. was desirous of promoting him to the Archbishopric of York; but the king, and the dean and chapter, opposed the wish of his holiness with such firmness, that Flemming deemed it expedient to retire to his diocese of Lincoln.

It was in the year 1427 that he obtained the royal licence to found a society of students in the church of All Saints, Oxford, and to unite that church with those of St. Mildred and St. Michael;* the whole incorporated edifices to be named the church of All Saints, and to be erected into a collegiate church, or college. The society was to consist of a warden, or rector, seven scholars, and two chaplains. The rector and scholars were to be perpetual parsons of the intended collegiate church; and it was expressly stated that they were to employ the whole of their talents in opposition to Wickliffe and his followers.

Shortly after the royal license was obtained, the bishop purchased ground for the erection of buildings; but his death, in the year 1430, retarded the commencement of the structure, and this fatal event occurred so unexpectedly, that he had not even prepared statutes for the regulation of the society.

The students resided for some time in a tenement called Deep Hall, which formed a part of the founder's purchase; but they were so fortunate as speedily to meet with fresh patrons, among whom were Cardinal Beaufort, and Thomas Rotheram, Bishop of Lincoln. This latter dignified ecclesiastic was so extensive a benefactor that he has usually been allowed to share in the honour of foundation with his predecessor in the bishopric. The family name of this prelate was Scot, and he derived his familiar surname

* These three churches were then under the immediate patronage of Flemming, as Bishop of Lincoln.

name from Rotherham, in Yorkshire, the place of his birth. He was educated at Cambridge, and was for some time Chancellor of that University. He filled a variety of important offices, both in church and state, being successively Bishop of Rochester and Lincoln, and Archbishop of York; Keeper of the Privy Seal, and Lord Chancellor.

The first idea of his benefaction occurred while on a visit to his diocese, as Bishop of Lincoln, in 1470. John Tristreppe, the third rector of Flemming's foundation, preached the visitation sermon from the text: "Behold, and visit, thy vine, and perfect the vineyard which thy right hand hath planted." In the course of his oration the rector so judiciously applied to the feelings of his chief auditor, that he rose from his seat, and with difficulty restrained his emotion till the sermon was concluded, when he promised to do all that was required for the permanent benefit of the institution. This promise he nobly performed, for he not only contributed largely to the erection of convenient buildings, but increased the number of fellows from seven to twelve, and bestowed two livings. He also formed a body of statutes for the regulation of the society.

When the institution was thus established on a solid basis fresh benefactors speedily arose. Among these were Bishop Smyth, already noticed as the liberal founder of Brasen nose. Edward Darby, M. A. Fellow of the College, and Archdeacon of Stow, who founded three fellowships; Joan Trapps, the widow of a goldsmith in London; and Mrs. Joyce Frankland (noticed in our account of Brasen nose) her daughter; Nathaniel, Lord Crew, Bishop of Durham, sometime rector of this College; and Dr. Marshall, Rector, and Dean of Gloucester.

The buildings of Lincoln College are comprised in two quadrangles, the one a parallelogram of eighty, and the other of seventy, feet. The front towards the street is low and irregular, having a plain square tower, with a turret at one angle, over the chief entrance. The first court was begun soon after the founder's death, and was completed by Rotherham, the co-founder, and Bishop

shop Beckington. This division contains the hall, the library, the rector's lodgings, the common room, and various apartments for scholars. The whole of the buildings are of small elevation, (as was uniformly the case with antient collegiate structures,) and are arranged with much simplicity. The arms of Rotherham, and the rebus of Beckington's name, (a beacon and a tun!) are observable on several parts of the walls.

The south court, or smaller quadrangle, is, likewise, plain and low, but the neat Gothic face of the chapel, surmounted by an embattled parapet, imparts interest to this portion of the building. The south court was constructed about the year 1612, and a part of the expense was borne by Sir Thomas Rotherham, who is said to have presented a sum on this occasion to atone for a misapplication of the college purse, while he was fellow and bursar, in the reign of Elizabeth. Six additional sets of rooms were built by the society, in 1759.

The *Chapel* was erected by Archbishop Williams,* and was consecrated in 1631, by Dr. Corbet, Bishop of Oxford, so well known as a man of genuine humour and an agreeable poet. This edifice is 62 feet long, by 26 in breadth. The exterior is a pleasing instance of the peculiar adaptation of the Gothic style to places of religious service, and the internal parts are highly decorated, but generally interesting. The ceiling is richly ornamented with the arms of the founder, and those of benefactors, with many interspersed devices; the screen is of cedar, curiously carved. The windows are filled with painted glass, procured from Italy by Archbishop Williams. The compartment over the altar, on the east, contains the types and antitypes of the era of redemption: the others consist of portraitures of the apostles and various prophets.

The *Hall*, situate on the east side of the first quadrangle, was built by Dean Forest, in 1636, but the interior was repaired, and arranged as it now appears, by Lord Crew, Bishop of Durham, in the year 1701. This room has an unornamented roof, of a semi-circular

* While Bishop of Lincoln.

circular construction. The sides are of wainscot, and are embellished with the arms of benefactors.

When Archbishop Rotherham founded the library, on the north side of the larger quadrangle, he did not omit to endow his foundation with such books as the rising spirit of the age produced, and many valuable additions were made at periods briefly subsequent; but, during the fanatical war, the greater part of this collection was destroyed, and the library was converted, in 1656, into chambers. Sir Nathaniel Lloyd, who had been educated in the college, contributed, in 1739, the sum of 500l. to the restoration of the library, and the room was consequently wainscotted, and duly prepared for the reception of books. The collection has since found many benefactors, and has been much enriched by some Greek and Latin manuscripts, presented by Sir George Wheler. Portraits of the founders, of Lord Crew, and of Sir Nathaniel Lloyd, are preserved in this library.

Lincoln College has not produced many prelates; but several of the rectors shewed respect for the founder's wish, by proving able defenders of the ancient mode of worship in the days of its greatest danger. The following are some of the persons, eminent in various departments, who are claimed by this house: Robert Flemming, a relation of the founder, and Dean of Lincoln. He was author of an elegant Latin poem, intituled "*Lucubrationes Tiburtinæ*," and left in MS. a Greek and Latin dictionary, since lost. Edward Weston, an acute disputant on the side of the Romanists; Richard Brett, one of the translators of the Bible; Arthur Hopton, an able mathematician. Sir William D'Avenant, Poet-Laureate; a writer whose genius, though, perhaps, not originally of the first class, was much oppressed by the temper of the ages in which he lived. Sir William was the son of J. D'Avenant,* a vintner, who kept an inn called The Crown, near Carfax Church, Oxford. The father was an ardent admirer of plays, and was particularly attached to Shakspeare, who often rested at

* The name of J. D'Avenant occurs as Mayor of Oxford, in 1621. The elder brother of the poet was a D. D. and a Fellow of St. John's College.

the Crown during his journeys between London and Stratford. Sir William's mother is traditionally recorded to have been a woman of great wit and beauty. It is certain that a close family intimacy prevailed, and it has even been insinuated that Shakspeare had more right than the landlord of the Crown to claim filial reverence from the future laureate. Sir William died in St. Clement Danes, London, but was buried in Westminster Abbey, with a poetical epitaph, more quaint than any lines which ever fell from his own pen. On his grave-stone is now inscribed a puerile imitation of the sentence placed beneath Ben Jonson's bust:—"O rare Sir William D'Avenant!"—Dr. Sanderson, one of the most able, yet modest casuists of his era, and Archbishop Potter, were both fellows of Lincoln. How unstable is the ground on which man rears his calculations! Flemming founded this college for the purpose of raising a society to oppose all the innovations on ancient church; yet this very structure has witnessed the studies of James Hervey, the author of Theron and Aspasio, and of John Wesley, the celebrated sectarian.

The society now consists of a rector, twelve fellows, eight scholars, thirteen exhibitioners, and a bible clerk.

MAGDALEN COLLEGE

takes a high place among the noblest institutions, and the most interesting buildings, of the University. This college was founded by William of Waynfleet, Bishop of Winchester, who was the eldest son of Richard Patten, of Waynfleet, in Lincolnshire. The bishop was educated in Winchester school, and was afterwards removed to Oxford. At an early age he was appointed schoolmaster of Winchester, where he evinced his ardent love of letters, by forming a library on a much more extensive scale than was usual at the era. He was subsequently chosen by King Henry VI. to superintend the school founded by that monarch

master at Eton, and was soon appointed provost. On the death of Cardinal Beaufort he was promoted to the see of Winchester, and the king himself honoured him by being present at his enthronement. Waynfleet was now employed in many transactions of great political importance, in all which he proved himself a faithful and able counsellor. In 1456, he was appointed Lord Chancellor, which high office he filled till July 1460, when it was found expedient for him to resign, though he still retained the confidence of Henry, and was in attendance on that unfortunate monarch at Northampton only a few days before the defeat of the Lancastrian army. After this fatal event he retired from political interference, and lived, respected even by those to whom he had been inimical *, till the year 1486. He was interred in a magnificent chapel which forms a part of Winchester cathedral; and his place of interment is preserved in reverential order by the members of the society which he founded.

When Bishop Waynfleet first projected a benefaction to the University of Oxford, his views were on a comparatively limited scale. He obtained, in 1448, a licence to build a hall for students, with an annexed revenue of 100*l.* per annum. This hall he dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen, and settled in it a president, thirteen master fellows, and seven bachelor fellows, or scholars. But he shortly enlarged his scheme, and gained permission from the king to convert the whole buildings and premises, belonging to an hospital dedicated to St. John, into a college. Accordingly, in 1457, the hospitallers surrendered their building, with all its valuable possessions, into the hands of the president and scholars of Magdalen Hall, on condition of receiving maintenance for life. On June the 12th, 1458, Bishop Waynfleet placed in his new college a president and six fellows;

 and,

* Edward IV. issued a special pardon in his favour, and visited, without solicitation, his new college. The king, on this occasion, entered Oxford from Woodstock, after sunset, and was conducted by torch-light to Magdalen College, where he was met in procession by the founder, the president, and other members of the society.

and, two days after, the president and scholars of Magdalen Hall surrendered their house to the College, and joined the society.

The foundation-stone of the new buildings was laid in May, 1473; and much the greater portion was completed before the founder's decease. William Orchyarde was the chief architect employed; but Waynfleet was, himself, qualified to superintend the whole, as he had filled the office of overseer of the buildings at Windsor. In 1479, the founder presented a body of statutes, by which the College is directed to be called *Seinte Marie Maugdalene Colledge*, to the honour and praise of Christ crucified, the blessed Virgin his Mother, St. Mary Magdalene, and various apostles and saints, the chief of whom are patrons of the cathedral of Winchester. The society is made to consist of forty fellows *, thirty scholars, or demies, four chaplains, eight clerks, and sixteen choristers. The fellows are to study divinity, medicine, and the canon law; the demies are desired to be conversant in grammar, logic, sophistry, and "that species of music called *plain song*, or chaunting."

Among the chief benefactors occur the following persons:—Sir John Fastolff, one of the bravest generals engaged in the French wars under the fourth, fifth, and sixth Henrys. Sir John was in the habit of intimate friendship with Waynfleet, and appointed that bishop one of his executors †. William, Earl of Arundel, who gave to the society the hospital of St. John and St. James, in Northamptonshire. Ralph Freman, Esq. who bequeathed Freman's Court, near the Royal Exchange, London, and John

* Two of these fellowships were founded by John Ingledew, chaplain to Waynfleet, and one by John Forman, vicar of Ruston, in Yorkshire.

† It is now generally believed that Shakspeare did not intend to allude to this eminent man in his inimitable comic character of somewhat similar a name; but it is curious that a hostel, called the *Boar's Head*, in *Southwark*, formed a part of Sir John Fastolff's benefaction to this college. The Boar's Head in *Eastcheap*, it will be recollected, was one of the favourite resorts of Shakspeare's Wanton Knight.

John Norris, Esq. LL. D. who left 500l. for the advancement of a new building to be hereafter noticed. In consequence of the ample estates bestowed by the founder, and the various benefactions which seconded his efforts, the institution soon became so opulent that its revenues were valued, in 1535, at 1076l. 5s. 2d. yearly.

This fine college is situate at the eastern extremity of the city, on the border of the river Cherwell. The chief part of the extensive buildings was perfected during the life of the founder, and under his immediate inspection. What remained incomplete of his original plan was ably and faithfully performed at periods closely bordering on the era of his demise. Noble augmentations have since been made, and still farther improvements are projected.

The side towards the High Street is ornamented by a lofty tower of beautiful proportions, with an open parapet at the top, surmounted by eight jagged pinnacles *. The chief entrance to the college is on the western side, through a modern portal, which is, in itself, heavy, and possesses little claim to beauty; but is particularly liable to objection on account of its inappropriate style of formation. This portal is of the Doric order, and it leads to courts Gothic on every front, and through every cloister! The first court is small, and was chiefly designed to form a suitable approach to the more important parts of the edifice. In front is the ancient entrance (now disused) to the great quadrangle. This gateway is worked under an august Gothic tower, enriched with statues of King Henry III. of the founder, of St. John the Baptist and St. Mary Magdalen, each placed beneath a canopy of delicate construction. Above the gate is the foun-

* This fine tower is supposed to have formed a part of the original design, but was not commenced till 1492, and was not finished till six years afterwards. It has been asserted that Cardinal Wolsey, while bursar of the college, drew the plan of the tower, and even employed the college money, without due warranty, in aid of its completion. But this story is quite unsupported by evidence.

der's chamber, lighted by a lofty oriel which comprises three ranges of Gothic windows.

On the right is the west entrance to the chapel, a beautiful specimen of Gothic architecture, and adorned with five small figures in canopied niches, the whole of which are admirably executed for the period. One of these represents the founder, in a kneeling posture. The others are intended for William of Wykeham; King Henry III. (who was a patron of the hospital converted into this college;) St. Mary Magdalen and St. John the Baptist.

On the left hand of the court are the president's lodgings, which were originally built in 1485, but have been altered within the last half century. In a corner of the opposite side is a plain but handsome stone pulpit, now somewhat decayed, from which an annual sermon was formerly preached on the day dedicated to St. John the Baptist. On this occasion green boughs were distributed in every part of the court, in remembrance of St. John's preaching in the Wilderness. This annual sermon is now delivered in the chapel.

The great quadrangle, which is entered through this court, is composed of the chapel, the hall, the library, a part of the president's lodgings, and chambers for the fellows and demies. An air of venerable grandeur pervades the whole. A fine cloister runs to the extent of each side, the roof of which is of ribbed oak, and no innovating hand has presumed to injure the sedate, though magnificent, character of the surrounding buildings. The whole of this quadrangle was arranged by the founder, with the two following exceptions:—the cloister on the south was completed, after his demise, in 1490; and, in the year 1509, a series of large hieroglyphic figures of sculptured stone was placed, at regular distances, on each interior part of the court. These figures were originally coloured, and have caused many conjectures among the curious. The majority of enquirers have been contented to suppose that they were merely the offspring of such a fantastical taste as often led Gothic architects and designers

sigiers to labour at delighting through the medium of astonishment; but William Reeks, a fellow of the college at the latter part of the 17th century, has endeavoured to prove that these mystical figures were really meant to inculcate very superior lessons of scholastic discipline. The manuscript is preserved in Magdalen Library, and as a transcript will, at any rate, convey a general notion of these curious pieces of sculpture, we venture on introducing it.—" Beginning from the south-west corner the two first figures we meet with are the *Lion* and the *Pelican*. The former of these is the emblem of *Courage* and *Vigilance*, the latter of *parental Tenderness* and *Affection*. Both of them together express to us the complete character of a good governor of a college. Accordingly they are placed under the window of those lodgings which originally belonged to the president, as the instructions they convey ought particularly to regulate his conduct.

" Going on the right hand, on the other side of the gateway, are four figures, viz. the *Schoolmaster*, the *Lawyer*, the *Physician*, and the *Divine*. These are ranged along the outside of the library, and represent the duties and business of the students of the house. By means of learning in general they are to be introduced to one of the three learned professions; or else, as hinted to us by the figure with *Cap and Bells* in the corner, they must turn out *fools* in the end.

" We now come to the north side of the quadrangle; and here the three first figures represent the history of *David*, his conquest over the *Lion* and *Goliath*; from whence we are taught not to be discouraged at any difficulties that may stand in our way, as the vigour of youth will easily enable us to surmount them. The next figure to these is that of the *hippopotamos*, or *river-horse*, carrying his young one upon his shoulders. This is the emblem of a good tutor, or fellow of a college, who is set to watch over the youth of the society, and by whose prudence they are to be led through the dangers of their first entrance into the world. The figure immediately following represents *Sobriety*,

or *Temperance*, that most necessary virtue of a collegiate life. The whole remaining train of figures are the vices which we are instructed to avoid. Those next to temperance are the opposite vices of *Gluttony* and *Drunkenness*. Then follow the *Lucanthropos*, the *Hyæna*, and *Panther*, representing *Violence*, *Fraud*, and *Treachery*; the *Griffin* representing *Covetousness*, and the next figure *Anger*, or *Morosencss*. The *Dog*, the *Dragon*, the *Deer*, *Flattery*, *Envy*, and *Timidity*; and the three last the *Mantichora*, the *Boxers*, and the *Lamia*, *Pride*, *Contention*, and *Lust*."

The court of entrance, and the larger quadrangle with its appendant buildings, comprehend nearly the whole of the structure designed by the founder. But, shortly after the erection of the tower, a range of chambers was constructed under the denomination of the Chaplain's Court, and some additional rooms were built, towards the east, in 1635.

At the beginning of the last century a plan was formed to build a new quadrangle, and to take down three sides of the venerable court raised by Bishop Waynfleet. The design of the new building was prepared by Edward Holdsworth, M. A. Towards this intended alteration the members contributed very liberally; and, in 1733, the foundation of one side of the new quadrangle was laid. This entire range is finished, but not any of the remaining parts have been commenced. A building fund, however, has been long accumulating; and it seems probable that a society so affluent in itself, and so honourably connected, will, at length, be enabled to carry its wishes into execution. When that day shall arrive it is to be hoped that correctness of taste (if any other stimulative be wanting than that of respect for the founder) will restrain the members of Magdalen from demolishing any more of the ancient edifice than imperative circumstances may render unavoidable.

That part of the intended quadrangle which is already finished consists of chambers for students, and is three hundred feet in length. The triumph of modern elegance over ancient home-

OXFORD,
including Magdalen Bridge, College, Radcliffe Library, & St Mary's Church.

homeliness of need is conspicuous in the arrangement of the interior. The elevation contains three series of rooms, all equally capacious, lofty, and convenient. The outside is plain, but handsome and substantial, with an arcade to the whole length, the roof of which is ornamented with stucco work.

The *Chapel* is a beautiful Gothic structure, divided, as was customary, into two parts. The roof of the ante-chapel is supported by two fine Gothic columns; and this portion of the building contains numerous monuments of persons connected with the college. Among these is one to the memory of two sons of Sir Thomas Lyttelton, who were drowned in the river Cherwell, while endeavouring to save each other. Their melancholy fate, created a general sympathy, and was poetically lamented by Cowley.

The inner chapel still retains much of its original sublimity of Gothic character, and is, on the whole, highly finished and peculiarly elegant; but it is to be regretted that in many late alterations Grecian ornaments have been profusely adopted. The body is lighted by ten windows, painted with apostolical figures, in claro obscuro. The west window contains the Last Judgment, after a design by Christopher Schwarts. This window was much damaged by the high wind in 1703, but was admirably restored by Egginton, a few years back. There are, likewise, eight very fine windows in the ante-chapel, executed from designs of Egginton. These are filled with various figures of saints, and of illustrious persons connected with the college, except two compartments, which contain the Baptism of Christ, and the Adoration at the Sepulchre. The whole are executed with great taste and spirit.

The altar was constructed early in the last century, and corresponds with other modern parts of the chapel in possessing embellishments of the Corinthian order. The altar-piece was painted by Fuller, and represents the Last Judgment. In this piece Fuller professedly attempted to imitate the manner of Michael Angelo; but, like most imitators, he has caught chiefly the defects of his prototype, and presented few of his beauties.

The

The figures are repulsively coarse, and a general harshness pervades the picture *. The demerits of Fuller are rendered more striking by a comparison with the beauties of a painting placed immediately beneath; this is a representation of our Saviour bearing his Cross, supposed to be the production of Morales, styled *El Divino*, a Spanish artist of the 16th century. The figure of Christ is fine, and the colouring exquisitely harmonious. The character of this picture is well known by the engraving made from it by Sherwin.

The screen and panelling of the chapel are enriched with Grecian ornaments, and were put up in 1740; but the new roof is of Gothic character, and was designed by Wyatt. An excellent organ has been presented by Mr. Freman, in the place of that before mentioned to have been removed by order of Oliver Cromwell, and choir service is regularly performed.

The *Library* is a low but extensive room, and has been considerably improved by the liberality of Dr. Warner, Bishop of Rochester. A portrait of that bishop, and one of the founder, are preserved in this apartment.

The outside of *the Hall* is by no means so conspicuous for beauty as many other parts of the original buildings; but the interior is spacious, well-proportioned, and elegant. The wainscotting is carved in a curious and fanciful manner, and the room also contains a carving of King Henry VIII. The roof is of modern Gothic, constructed under the direction of Wyatt. Many portraits ornament the walls, and the collection is enriched by a small whole length painting of St. Mary Magdalen. This piece has been by some attributed to Guercino; the expression of the figure is irresistibly attractive.

Magdalen College is required by its statutes to entertain the kings of England, and their eldest sons, whenever they visit Oxford; in consequence of which flattering duty the hall has been honoured

* This altar-piece gains an interest from the poetical description of it by Addison. His poem is intituled "*Resurrectio delineata ad altare Coll. Mag. Oxon.*" and was translated by Amhurst, (author of Terræ Filius) in 1718.

honoured by the presence of many of the most interesting personages connected with our national annals. The visit of Edward IV. has been already noticed. In 1483, the founder again received, in person, a regal guest. In the summer of that year Richard III. entered the city in great pomp, and was lodged, with his train of nobles, in Magdalen College. On this occasion, after hearing disputations in the hall, Richard gave the president and college two bucks, and five marks for wine. Prince Arthur was twice entertained at Magdalen; and Henry, Prince of Wales, was admitted an honorary member of the college, when his royal father, James I. visited the University. During the sway of the Parliament, Magdalen Hall was compelled to receive guests of a different description: Cromwell, with the chief officers of his army, was, in 1649, sumptuously entertained here; and so sportive was their humour on the occasion, that, after dinner, they played at bowls on the College Green.

Attached to this college are pleasure-grounds of the most inviting description. These have been arranged at different periods, and consequently evince great varieties in taste. Approximating to the new buildings is a division termed the Grove, which is a fine tract, well stored with venerable elms, and stocked with deer. The shady recesses and pleasing half-repose of this scene are well adapted to study and meditation. Round an adjacent meadow, on the banks of the river Cherwell, are constructed long and devious promenades, termed the Water-walks. Through the umbrageous fence which ornaments these walks on either side are caught occasional views of the surrounding country; and the whole seems to speak of academical quiet and elegant ease. Both the Grove and the Water-walk are believed to have been first formed in the reign of Elizabeth;* and, probably, some hints were taken from the Utopia of Sir Thomas More.

We

* The ancient oak appertaining to Magdalen College was long an object of interest and curiosity. This tree stood at the entrance of the water-walks, and was known to be nearly 600 years old. Its height was seventy-one

We are only enabled to mention a few of the distinguished persons connected with this house; but it has been fertile, in nearly every age, of men of illustrious character. The following brief list of names will tend to prove the correctness of such an assertion: The two cardinals, Wolsey and Pole; the latter entered as a nobleman, and studied under Linacre and Latimer; Dean Colet; Sir Thomas Rowe, the celebrated ambassador; Hampden, the patriot; Heylin, the ecclesiastical historian; Withers, the poet; *Addison*. This elegant writer entered of Queen's College at the early age of fifteen, but was elected a demy of Magdalen two years afterwards. He wrote his Cato while a scholar here. Collins, whose Ode to the Passions will outweigh in sterling merit many a hundred volumes of contemporary poetry. *Gibbon*, whose eccentricity led him to ridicule a manner of life which his genius was well calculated to enjoy. Boulter, Archbishop of Armagh, and Hough, Bishop of Worcester.

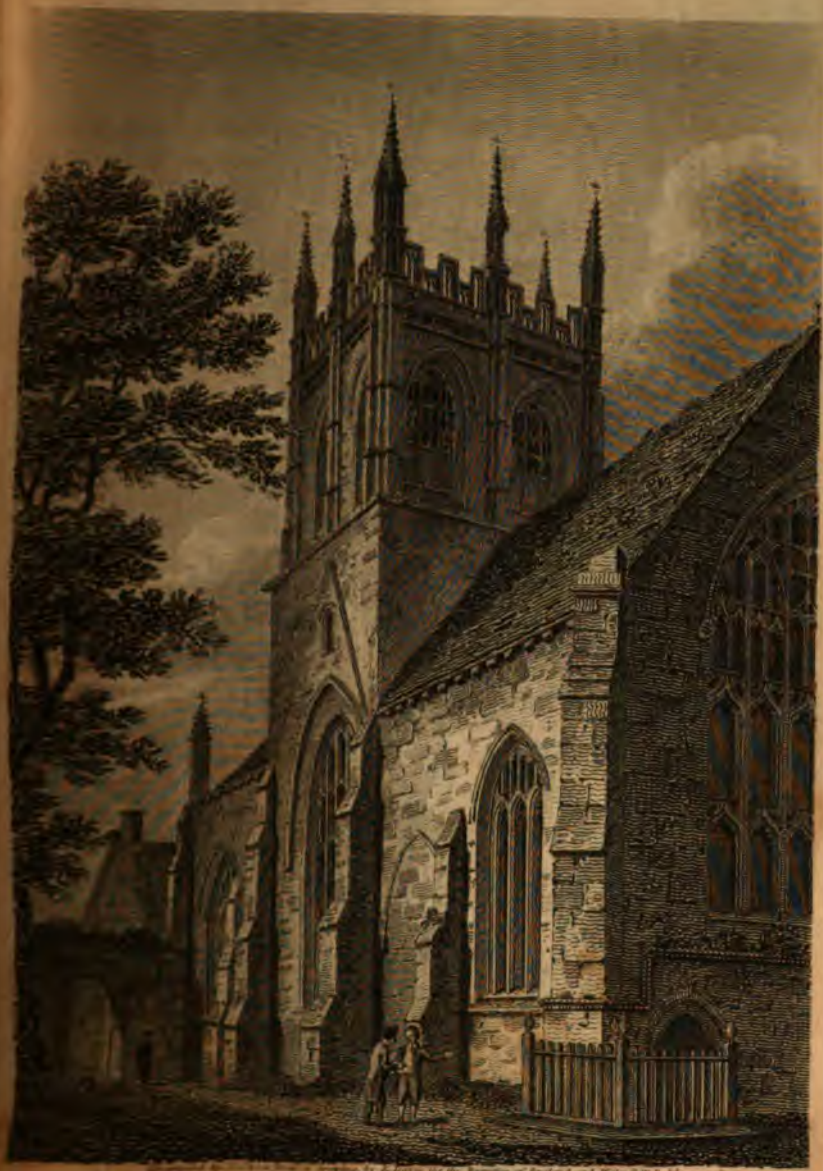
We have already noticed the temperate, but steady, courage with which this college resisted the arbitrary attempts of James II. Its conduct on this occasion must ever be remembered with honour in the annals of the country at large.

The society consists of a president, forty fellows, thirty demies, a divinity lecturer, four chaplains, eight clerks, and sixteen choristers. No commoners are admitted in this college.

MERTON COLLEGE

is the most ancient incorporated establishment in the University. The man who had the honour of instituting so noble a precedent was Walter de Merton, Bishop of Rochester, and Chancellor of England in the reign of Henry III. He was the son

one feet; its girth twenty-one feet; and its cubic contents 754 feet. This majestic tree fell, through decay, in the year 1789. A chair made from its wood has been placed in the president's lodgings.



MERTON COLLEGE CHAPEL.
Oxford.

London Published by Vernon Hood & Sharpe Poultry Dec. 1st 1808

son of William de Merton, Archdeacon of Berks, from whom he inherited considerable property. Few particulars of his personal history can now be ascertained; but it appears that he was a firm adherent to the interests of the court during the long contest between the sovereign and the barons, and was accordingly regarded with especial favour by his royal master. His death was occasioned by a fall from his horse, while attempting to ford a river in his diocese, on the 27th of October, 1277, and he was interred in Rochester cathedral.*

The foundation charter of Merton College is dated January 7, 1264, and the establishment is therein termed *Domus Scholarium de Merton.*† Nearly at the same time the buildings of the new institution were commenced. A second charter was afterwards obtained; and a third in 1274, at which time the plan of De Merton was matured; but the first officers of the college were not appointed till two years afterwards. It appears, from the statutes, that the number of scholars was to fluctuate with the state of the collegiate resources; the prescribed stipend of each was fifty shillings per annum.

The first benefactor that rose in aid of De Merton's noble institution was Ela Longspee, Countess of Warwick, who bequeathed, about the year 1295, some lands to the society, on condition of their saying masses for her eternal rest. John Willyott,

* As the original monument had fallen to decay, a fresh erection was constructed in 1598, by the society of Merton College, at the instigation of Sir Henry Savile, and a sum of money has been regularly appropriated to its preservation. On removing the stone the portraiture of the founder's body was discovered. He appeared to have been a tall man, and held in one hand a crosier, which, when touched, fell to pieces; in his other hand, (if we may trust to an anecdote repeated by Wood) was a silver chalice, which was removed to the college, and placed by the members in their *cista jocalium*. But this valuable relic was afterwards broken and lost.

† It has been asserted by some that De Merton first founded his college at Maldon, in Surrey. But it was, in fact, a religious house which he instituted at Maldon, and he briefly removed the warden and priests to his new establishment at Oxford.

lyott, Chancellor of Exeter, proved a more judicious friend. In 1380, this latter benefactor bestowed lands, and other property, for the assistance of exhibitioners, since called *Portionistæ*, or *Postmasters*. The number of these was usually twelve till the early part of the reign of James I. when John Chambers, formerly a fellow of Merton, increased their number to fourteen. The provision for these exhibitioners was still scanty; but many contributors have since been found, by whose bounty the fund for their maintenance is very considerably increased.

Two of the early wardens (Henry Sever, and Richard Fitz-James,) bestowed so much attention on the furtherance of the buildings, and contributed so largely to the general interests of the college, that they have been almost permitted to share the credit of foundership with Bishop Merton. Among other benefactors, William Reid, Bishop of Chichester, and Sir Thomas Bodley, instituted a fund from which occasional sums were to be lent to the fellows; and the former contributed largely to the buildings. Four scholars were added from the natives of Oxford, by Henry Jackson, minor canon of St. Paul's.

Merton College is situate to the east of Corpus Christi, and consists of three courts. Very little of the building erected by the founder is now remaining, but many parts bear the date of a period not far distant from the era at which he flourished. The principal front is an irregular pile, rebuilt in 1589, with an exception of the tower, and the gate which forms the chief entrance. These were constructed by Thomas Rodburne, Bishop of St. David's, in the year 1416. The gate is ornamented with statues of King Henry III. and the founder, in canopied niches, and with a sculptured tablet expressive of the history of St. John the Baptist. These interesting embellishments were much defaced by the parliamentary soldiers, and are now in a damaged condition. The great north window, which abuts on the street, is a beautiful specimen of florid Gothic architecture, and forms the chief ornament of the front range of the edifice.

The first court is small, and totally destitute of all uniformity

[illegible]

MERTON COLLEGE CHAPEL.

(Second View.)

Oxford.

[illegible]

of architectural features; one side, however, is much adorned by a part of the chapel, which has high pointed windows, and ornamented buttresses, from which project corbels carved into fantastical figures. In this court are placed the warden's lodgings, a low building, supposed to be in part coeval with the foundation.

A handsome arch leads to the inner quadrangle, which was formed at the expense of the society in 1610, and is 110 feet long, and 100 in breadth. This court is regular, and the whole is in a pleasing style of Gothic, except a central elevation on the southern side, which surmounts the gate conducting to the gardens; and there we find successive ranges of pillars of the Corinthian, Doric, Ionic, and Tuscan orders. In an upper compartment are placed the arms of James I.

Two sides of the third court, which is on a very contracted scale, are occupied by the *Library*. This building was founded by William Rede, Bishop of Chichester, in the year 1376, and is calculated to excite the utmost veneration in the beholder, since it is assuredly the most ancient structure of its kind in England. It is a low building, with a range of narrow oblong windows surmounted by four low towers, lighted by small casements. The glass of each division has been at different times ornamented with armorial bearings. The roof is of wood, arranged in angular compartments; and the wainscotting is at one end carved into architectural allusions. We have already observed that many of the valuable manuscripts originally contained in this library were destroyed or dispersed by the injudicious agents of Reformation in 1550.

The *Hall* is a plain but respectable structure, ascended by a flight of steps, and contains several portraits, together with a large picture by Dr. Wall, which represents the founder's triumph over indolence and bigotry, as exemplified in the dispersion of monkish gloom by the introduction of scholastic discipline. This hall has been frequently honoured by the presence of crowned heads, as it has been customary, since the foundation of Christ

Church,

Church, for the king to reside in that college, but the queen at Merton, during the visits of the court.*

The University can scarcely boast of a Gothic building more impressively fine than the *Chapel.* This edifice was raised about the year 1424, on the ruins of a very ancient pile, and is, likewise, the parish church of St. John Baptist.† It consists of a choir, a cross aisle, and an ante-chapel, and has a well-proportioned square tower, with an open parapet surmounted by jagged pinnacles. The windows of the choir are richly painted with representations of saints; and those of the cross aisle are fine specimens of the pointed style of architecture in its most fortunate era; but the great eastern window is the most striking. The masonry is exquisitely delicate, and the lower compartments are ornamented with painted glass by Price, executed in 1700, expressive of different passages in scripture. The upper sections, including a wheel of St. Catharine, finely worked, are completely filled by coloured glass, the sedate tints of which bestow relief, and add much to the captivating effect of the whole. The altar-piece beneath this window is a Crucifixion, supposed to be painted by Tintoret; but it is not nearly equal in colouring or combination to many pictures by that master.

Near the altar is the monument of Sir Thomas Bodley, with his bust, surrounded by books, and other emblems of study and science; and also a cenotaph in honour of Sir Henry Savile, who was buried at Eton. An unornamented tablet, on the left of the altar, records the talents and virtues of Bishop Earle, whose delicacy

* It is worthy of remark that the first *common-room* known in the University was fitted up at this college, in the year 1661.

† The church of St. John originally belonged to the abbey of Reading, and was, by one of the abbots, given to De Merton, in 1265. Oliver, Bishop of Lincoln, made it a collegiate church in 1292. The chapel, as it now appears, probably formed only a part of the builder's design. The general character of the structure is so distinct from that usually adopted in the construction of chapels, that there is reason to believe the founder intended the building to be cruciform, in resemblance of a cathedral.

delicacy of wit and accurate knowledge of human manners are so fully displayed in the little work termed Microcosmography.

In the ante-chapel is a particularly fine cross, commemorative of *Johannes Bloxham* and *Johannes Whytton*, the first a warden of Merton, and the latter a benefactor to the college. Near the north door lies Antony Wood. His arms are displayed on a small mural tablet, with an inscription, which merely informs the reader that he was an antiquary, and notices his age, and the time at which he died.

In the list of eminent persons, connected with so ancient a college, we naturally expect to find men who are rather traditionally famous, than familiarly venerated through the medium of their works. Accordingly, we meet with John Duns, better known by the appellation of Duns Scotus,* and titled by the University of Paris, on account of his skill in logical disputation, the *subtle Doctor*. William Ockham, a pupil of Duns Scotus, and founder of the sect of Schoolmen termed Ockhamists. Ockham opposed the assumptions of the Pope, in regard to temporalities, with so much spirit and success, that he thought himself entitled familiarly to say to the Emperor of Germany, "if you will defend me by your sword, I will defend you by my pen." This renowned champion was styled the *singular and invincible Doctor*. John Wickliffe was likewise fellow of Merton, and he was termed, by those friendly to his sentiments, *Doctor Evangelicus*.

In succeeding ages this college has produced Sir Henry Savile, one of the most celebrated scholars of the seventeenth century. Dr. Harvey, who, by discovering the circulation of the blood, conferred so much benefit on medical science. Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex, the parliamentary general. Antony Wood, the Oxford antiquary; and Sir Richard Steele, a man qualified to lay the foundation of national improvement, but fated to lose the merit of his exertions through irregularity of habit. His wit was

* From a MS. in Merton Library, it appears that Duns was born in the village of Dunstan, in the county of Northumberland.

at least equal to that of Addison, and his judgment, if allowed cool operation, was probably not inferior; but his constitutional vivacity induced him so continually to act from first impulses, that he has left posterity only a few opportunities of ascertaining the real extent of his powers.

The society at present consists of a warden, twenty-four fellows, fourteen postmasters, four scholars, two chaplains, and two clerks. In the election of a warden the fellows present three names from their own number, and the visitor of the college (the Archbishop of Canterbury) fixes on one. The chaplains perform service for the parish of St. John Baptist.

NEW COLLEGE

was founded in the year 1379, by William of Wykeham, Bishop of Winchester, and is intituled in the charter *Sciate Mariæ College of Wynchestre, in Oxenford.* The term *new* was, at the period of its erection, popularly applied to the structure; and, by a strange inattention to propriety, the same appellation has been received as correct by all classes through every succeeding age. But it is in the inconsequential particular of name alone that the intention of the founder has failed. His college still presents one of the noblest specimens of architecture contained in the University; and the statutes framed by his wisdom have formed a precedent to emulative patrons of literature.

The illustrious founder of New College was born at Wykeham, in Hampshire, in the year 1324, of parents who were far from opulent, and was indebted for his education at Winchester school to the bounty of a neighbouring patron. On quitting school he was employed as secretary by his early friend, and was shortly recommended to the notice of King Edward III. Although Wykeham had not been so fortunate as to profit by collegiate discipline, the extent of his acquirements is sufficiently proved by the high offices which he now shortly filled with distinguished honour.

honour. He was appointed clerk of the king's works at Windsor Castle in 1356; and, three years after, was constituted chief warden and surveyor of all the most important buildings connected with the possessions of the sovereign. It is not clearly ascertained whether Wykeham had entered into holy orders previous to his filling the first of these offices, or whether the king directed his attention to the church as the most desirable channel of royal bounty. But it is known that many valuable livings were bestowed on him before the year 1363, and he was advanced to the bishopric of Winchester in 1366.

His energies increased with his elevation; and his talents were found so serviceable to the state, that he was appointed Lord Chancellor. His conduct in this office appears to have been exemplary, for his popularity was great; but, in 1371, he resigned the seal, in consequence of a petition from the Parliament to the King, praying that churchmen might be precluded from places of high political trust. Wykeham still retained the warm approbation of his master; but, towards the close of Edward's reign, the venerable monarch sank into a state of imbecillity, and the turbulent Duke of Lancaster took advantage of this season to insinuate prejudices which caused the bishop to be banished from court. He was speedily brought to trial, on eight articles of accusation, but the utmost malevolence of an intriguing party could only attach blame to him on one head. This proved sufficient for the purposes of faction, and the temporalities of his see were taken into the hands of the court. He was, however, shortly restored to his honours and emoluments, in consequence of a popular emotion in his favour, and had the satisfaction of an interview with his misled, but still gracious master, a few days before the aged king expired.

Richard II. appointed Wykeham Lord Chancellor, and the government for some time derived evident benefit from his counsel and integrity; but when Wykeham found that no remonstrances could divert the infatuated monarch from courses prolific

of ruin, he withdrew from court, and devoted himself entirely to the duties of his bishopric, and to acts of public and private beneficence. This great and good man died, nearly at the age of eighty, in the year 1404, and was interred in a chantry which he had constructed for himself in Winchester cathedral.

The designs of Wykeham, in regard to such a foundation as might assist in improving the literature of his country, were on a comprehensive scale. He began to purchase lands at Oxford two years after he entered on his bishopric; and, in 1373, established a school at Winchester. The buildings of the college were finished six years after the foundation stone was laid; and, in the ensuing year, he commenced a splendid structure at Winchester, (on the site of the seminary in which he had himself received education,) which was likewise brought to perfection six years after it was begun. By the statutes presented to his foundation at Oxford the society was made to consist of a warden, and seventy poor scholars, twenty of whom were to apply to the study of Laws, and the remaining fifty to Philosophy, the Arts, and Theology. The whole to take priest's orders within a specified time.

The society of Winchester was formed of a warden, with seventy scholars, who were to be instructed in grammatical learning, for which purpose a schoolmaster and usher were regularly appointed. Priests, clerks, and choristers, were appended to each society. The school at Winchester was directed to supply the college with students, by election, and was rendered subject to a yearly visitation from the wardens and fellows. So grand and comprehensive a design, which takes the student even from his nursery-days, and qualifies him, progressively, for the highest offices of church and state, merits, indeed, the warmest eulogy of every succeeding age!

The benefactors to this noble institution have been numerous, though only one (John de Buckingham, Bishop of Lincoln, who gave the advowson of Swalcliffe church, together with some adjacent lands,) occurred during the protracted life of Wykeham.

Among

Among those which have risen in more recent periods, several have founded exhibitions, and others have endowed sermons, orations, and lectures.

New College now consists of a spacious quadrangle, with attached chapel, hall, and library, a fine range of consecrated cloisters, and a series of buildings for the use of students, termed the Garden Court. The chambers towards the garden are the only parts not comprehended in the plan of the founder. The quadrangle is entered by a portal, and has the chapel and hall on the north, and the library on the east. The remainder of the court is composed of the warden's lodgings, and apartments for the fellows. The side formed by the chapel and hall is a chaste and interesting specimen of Gothic beauty; but only little of Wykeham's spirit remains in the aspect of the other buildings. The apartments of this court were originally only two stories high; but, towards the end of the sixteenth century, a third tier of rooms was added; and modern squares have been substituted for the former arched transom windows of the edifice. An embattled parapet was placed along the top, and some attention was certainly paid to uniformity in the alterations; but, by increasing the height of the buildings, the apparent extent of the quadrangle is diminished, and the harmony of architectural effect entirely destroyed. The gateway-tower is still pleasing, from the justness of its proportions; and, though divested by the hand of tasteless innovation of its pristine character, yet retains the sculptured effigy of Wykeham in one of its ornamented niches. At the south-east end of the hall is constructed a tower, divided into four stories, each roofed with stone. In one of these rooms are preserved some interesting relics of the founder. The dimensions of the quadrangle are about 168 feet by 129.

The Garden Court was completed in 1684, and is said to have been built in imitation of the palace of Versailles. This edifice consists of three stories of high-ceiled chambers, with a battlement on the top, and widens, by triple breaks, towards the gardens which lie extended in the front. The design certainly pos-

sesses elegance, though it involves one obvious inconvenience in point of taste. The only way of viewing such a building to advantage is necessarily by a gradual approach towards the centre of the elevation; and, as the usual mode of advancing to this structure is not through the garden, the casual spectator is seldom so placed as to catch the result for which the architect laboured.

The cloisters form a collegiate appendage first introduced by Wykeham. They are ranged in a quadrangular form, and have an arched roof of oak. Unlike the cloisters of Magdalen, these solemn avenues, together with the area which they inclose, are consecrated for the purpose of burial. Many distinguished members of Wykeham's institution are interred beneath the pavement of the cloisters; but the area of green sward within is still free from any melancholy hint of the instability of human acquirement.

All that piety could dictate, or affection and taste effect, was done by Wykeham in regard to the ornaments of the interior of the *Chapel*. The images of silver and gold fell as offerings to the agents of Reformation; and the fretted niches in which they were placed have yielded to the hand of time, but still the chapel intended as a monument of Wykeham's piety and taste remains the most splendid in the University. It is not desirable to trace this building through its numerous alterations and vicissitudes of fortune. Suffice it to observe that the arrangements of the interior, as they at present appear, have been chiefly made under the direction of Wyatt. The excursive fancy and elegant taste of that architect are well known; but the correctness of his judgment has, in the present instance, been questioned by some examiners. If we compare his performance with the simple, yet grand designs of Wykeham, he certainly will appear to much disadvantage; but, perhaps, it is a more equitable mode to place him in a scale of comparison with those who effected former alterations in the chapel ornaments. Very considerable praise must then be allotted to his spirited efforts.

The ante-chapel is about eighty feet in length by thirty-six

in

in breadth; and is supported by two staff-moulded pillars, of conspicuous beauty. The choir is 100 feet long, 35 broad, and 65 high, and was paved with black and white marble in the year 1636. At the west end of the choir is an organ-loft, richly adorned with Gothic allusions, in attention to the general character of the building. An opening through this loft judiciously allows a perspective view of the great painted window in the ante-chapel, unquestionably one of the finest that ever was executed. The east end is worked into canopied niches, fifty in number, and each adorned with pinnacles and tracery of the richest description. The fashion of these nearly resembles that of the ancient ornaments of the high altar; for when the late improvements were effected under the direction of Wyatt, a part of the old wall, containing some fragmentary niches, was discovered; and the architect laudably endeavoured to revive the original builder's design.* The communion-table is of dove-coloured marble; and the face of the wall immediately above it is adorned with five small compartments of marble sculpture in alto relievo, by Westmacott, representing the Salutation of the Virgin Mary; the Nativity; the taking down from the Cross; the Resurrection and the Ascension. The whole of these are eminently fine; but, perhaps, the Descent from the Cross is most conspicuous for merit. Every limb of the crucified Saviour is affectingly dead; and female grief does, indeed, appear piercingly beautiful in the blended grace and misery described in the figure of Mary. An attitude so swelling and energetic, yet so entirely devoid of theatrical parade, has seldom been witnessed in the performances of a modern sculptor.

The painted windows afford a prominent feature to the captivating splendour of the chapel; and these are the more interest-

 ing,

* The ground-colour of the ancient niches was a deep blue, and the edges were richly gilt. The effect of the altar-piece must have been superlatively grand when each of these niches was occupied by a statue of delicate marble, or, perhaps, of precious metal!

ing, as they enable the spectator to form a comparative analysis of four different styles of execution.

The windows of the ante-chapel (with the exception of the large one on the west) are probably coeval with the completion of the building, and were preserved in 1550, according to Wood, by the adroitness of the chief officers of the college, who assured the visitors that their finances were too low "to set up new, but promised that they would when they were in a capacity." These windows contain representations of patriarchs, saints, and martyrs, nearly all ill-drawn, and the colouring destitute of relief. Many of the tints are vivid, and, occasionally, a graceful line occurs; but the total want of a due distribution of light and shade prevents their attaining any resemblance of pictorial beauty.

The windows on the north side of the choir were executed by Mr. Peckitt, of York, and are filled with representations of the Saviour, the Virgin Mary, and twelve Apostles, together with various characters recorded in the Old Testament. The colouring is gaudy rather than vivid, and the execution of the whole is lamentably inferior to that of the windows on the opposite side of the chapel, which are by a Flemish artist, and after designs, according to popular report, from the school of Rubens. In each window are eight figures of saints, martyrs, &c. with various symbolical allusions. The drawing of these is in many instances masterly, and the expression full of spirit. The colours are unusually rich and brilliant. The glass of these windows, when removed from Flanders, was procured by Price the younger, of whom they were purchased by the members of New College. By Price they were repaired, and fitted to their present stations, in 1740.

But the great west window, for beauty of design, for exquisite disposition of light and shade, and for fascinating influence of general effect, far excels every other effort of painting on glass in the University. This splendid work was begun about the year 1776, from finished cartoons by *Sir Joshua Reynolds*, and was executed

executed by *Jervais*. The lower range is divided into seven compartments, about twelve feet high, and three feet wide, in each of which is placed an allegorical figure, the whole seven representing the Cardinal and Christian Virtues. *Temperance*, moderate even in water, which she is pouring from a larger vessel into a smaller. *Fortitude*, a fine figure, replete with expression, her hand resting on a broken column, which is erect, though in fragments. *Faith*, firmly fixed on both feet, and bearing a cross. *Charity* occupies the central compartment, and is allegorized, as usual, by a female figure in the act of taking children to her shelter. This is a lovely group. The maternal attitude is beneficence itself; and the suppliant fondness of the children is irresistibly engaging. *Hope*, glancing towards heaven, and scarcely touching the earth through eagerness of anticipation. Perhaps this figure has less strength of expression than either of those before noticed. *Justice*, finely described as looking through the shade which her own arm casts over her face. A steelyard is substituted for the usual accompaniment of scales. This is, probably, a more picturesque appendage, but is ordinarily used for such vulgar purposes that it seems to detract from the dignity of the allegory. *Prudence*, on her right arm an arrow joined with a remora, the emblems of speed and deliberation.

Although these allegorical figures unavoidably arrest the attention, the chief efforts of the artist are displayed in the upper compartment of the window. The size of this division is not less than eighteen feet in height, and ten in width. The subject represented is the Nativity of Jesus, and, in many respects, a finer combination was never produced by the accurate judgment and refined taste of Reynolds. In observance of the *Notte* of Corregio, he has taken for his light the emanation supposed to proceed from the body of the infant Saviour—a plan happily adapted to the character of painting on glass. The composition principally consists of thirteen figures. Among these a group of angels, newly descended to the stable, and kneeling round the babe,

babe, is exceedingly fine. The cherub-face placed close to the infant is one of the loveliest ever imagined by Sir Joshua, and is rendered, by the skilful use of transparency, all but alive. In the clouds above is introduced an angel, pondering over the mystery of redemption through the cross; and, at no great distance, is written on a scroll, the original Greek of the text, "Mysteries which the angels themselves desire to look into." Among the shepherds who are approaching to offer devotions, are inserted portraits of the two artists, Sir Joshua Reynolds, and Mr. Jervais. The colouring of this fine window is temperate, though rich, and the whole approximates more nearly to Nature than any effort of glass-painting before the time of Jervais.

In a recess near the altar is preserved the crosier of the founder. This venerable relic of sacerdotal pomp is composed of silver, highly gilt and enamelled. Instead of the Holy Lamb is introduced the figure of Wykeham, kneeling.

The *Hall* is one of the most spacious rooms in the University; and was, early in the sixteenth century, lined with wainscotting, a part of which is curiously carved. The windows are ornamented with arms and devices; and over the screen is placed a fine picture, by one of the Caracci, of the Shepherd's homage to Christ, immediately subsequent to the Nativity. The drawing of this piece is admirably correct, and the female figures abound with grace and beauty. This valuable painting was presented to the society by the Earl of Radnor, and was kept in the chapel till the late alterations rendered its removal necessary. The hall, likewise, contains several portraits, among which is one of the founder.

The *Library* consists of two rooms, one on the second, and the other on the third story. The first contains books of divinity; and the upper room (the interior of which has been lately rebuilt by Wyatt) is dedicated to works of miscellaneous literature. The contributors to this library have been numerous, and the collection is extremely valuable.

The gardens are extensive, and are now laid out with much

tants. The whole of these, including a bowling-green, and attached temple, or summer pleasure-house, is inclosed by the city-wall, which is preserved in a state of high repair. The garden is separated from the modern court by a handsome iron palisade, 120 feet in length, which originally belonged to the Duke of Chandos' magnificent palace at Canons. When Charles I. prepared to defend Oxford against the parliamentary army, New College was selected as a garrison; and, in 1651, it was fortified by Colonel Draper on the side of Cromwell. On these occasions the cloisters and tower were used as magazines for ammunition, and the buildings were considerably injured in many parts.

The following are a few of the eminent persons who have been educated in this college: Chichele, Archbishop of Canterbury, who paid honour to the memory of Wykeham, by imitating his beneficent example. We have already mentioned the chief events of Chichele's life, in our account of the foundation of All Souls' College. Thomas Beckington, Bishop of Bath and Wells. John Russel, Bishop of Lincoln, first perpetual chancellor of the University. William Warham, Archbishop of Canterbury, one of the ablest and best men of his time, and the patron of Erasmus. The learned and truly excellent Bishop Lowth. Among students of other ranks perhaps the following are some of the most interesting names: Grocyn, deserving of lasting gratitude as one of the revivers of learning. Sir Henry Sidney, the father of Sir Philip, a man of more useful qualities than his far-famed son. The learned, but ill-fated, Thomas Lydiat. The society of New College erected a monument over his grave, and have placed a cenotaph to his honour in the cloister. Dr. Bruno Ryves, writer of the first newspaper published in England. Somerville and Pitt, the poets; and the Rev. Joseph Spence, well known as an elegant miscellaneous writer.

The present members of the society are a warden, seventy fellows, ten chaplains, three clerks, and sixteen choristers. In regard to two fellowships, a preference is given to the founder's kindred,

kindred, who are admitted fellows without two years of probation, which term is required from all other candidates. The whole of the fellows are elected from Winchester, by the wardens of both colleges, two fellows of New College, and the subwarden and head master of Winchester. The elections to fill up vacancies are held annually.

The fellows of this college, by a privilege secured by the founder, may be admitted to all degrees in the University merely on an examination in their own college according to the University forms.

ORIEL COLLEGE.

This college owes its foundation to Adam De Brom, of whom it is only known that he was rector of Hanworth, in Middlesex, in 1315; chancellor of the diocese of Durham in the following year; archdeacon of Stow in 1319; and, shortly after, was promoted to the living of St. Mary, Oxford. In the year 1324, De Brom obtained permission from King Edward II. to purchase land and premises in Oxford, to the annual value of thirty pounds, for the purpose of founding a college to the honour of the Virgin Mary. He accordingly purchased an estate in St. Mary's parish, and founded a collegiate institution for the study of divinity and logic. When he had proceeded thus far he surrendered the whole into the hands of the king, in hope of acquiring, by such a step, regal assistance for his infant society: nor did De Brom calculate on fallacious ground. Edward had already evinced liberality by founding the college of Carmelite Friars in Oxford; and he readily placed this new institution under his particular care. In the succeeding year he granted a fresh charter, in which he directed the studies of the college to be divinity and the canon-law; and, for the better support of the members, he bestowed some tenements in Oxford, and gave the advowson of St. Mary's church, on condition of their providing chaplains for daily service.

Adam de Brom was appointed the first provost, and he drew a body

body of statutes in 1326, by which the college is appointed to consist of a provost, and ten fellows, or scholars, seven to study divinity, and three the canon law. He also gave the livings of Aberforth, in Yorkshire, and Coleby, in Lincolnshire. King Edward emulated the kindness of his generous, but ill-fated father, by bestowing on the society a large messuage called *La Oriole*, to which the scholars speedily removed, and from which possession the College derived its name. De Brom likewise procured of the king the hospital of St. Bartholomew, situate between the London roads, about half a mile from St. Clement's Church. This hospital was, at first, required only as an asylum for the students in times of pestilence, but has since proved a source of considerable emolument to the foundation.

John Franke, Lord Chancellor of England, was, in 1441, the next benefactor. His bequest consisted of 1000l. to be employed in the purchase of lands for the maintenance of four fellows, from the counties of Dorset, Wilts, Somerset, and Devon. Among other liberal contributors, are Carpenter, Bishop of Worcester; Smyth, Bishop of Lincoln (founder of Brasen Nose) Dr. Richard Dudley, chancellor of the church of Salisbury; Dr. Robinson, Bishop of London; Dr. Carter, provost of the college from 1708 to 1727; and Charles, the fourth Duke of Beaufort. By several of these benefactors fellowships have been founded, and by others the fellowships have been augmented, and livings bestowed. Queen Anne likewise annexed a prebend of Rochester to the provostship.

The original building called *La Oriole*, or Oriel Hall, received such additions during the reign of Edward III. as enabled it to assume the quadrangular form so well adapted to collegiate structures. But the increasing affluence of the college allowed the society, in different periods of the seventeenth century, to erect the present quadrangle on a more judicious and enlarged plan.

The front towards the street is simple, uniform, and commanding. Over the gateway is constructed a square tower, the face

of

of which is ornamented with a bay window, or oriel. The interior of the quadrangle is eminently pleasing. The eastern side is a fine Gothic elevation, occupied by the hall and the entrance to the chapel. The hall is approached by a flight of steps and a capacious portico, over which are placed, in niches surmounted by ornamental canopies, statues of the Virgin Mary and infant Jesus, and of the two kings, Edward II. and III. At both extremities is a bold and ornamented oriel. The provost's lodgings are to the north; the buildings on the south and west, which are three stories high, are entirely appropriated to the accommodation of other members of the society. On the roof of the chief gateway are worked the arms of King Charles; and other doorways are embellished with the armorial bearings of benefactors.

In addition to this quadrangle are two ranges of buildings, for the reception of students, on the east and west sides of the garden. These were constructed at different times, but are both judiciously conformable in style to the plainer parts of the quadrangle. The first was finished in 1719, at the expense of Bishop Robinson, who also founded three exhibitions for bachelors. An inscription on the front commemorates both these acts of generosity. The second wing was erected a few years after, by the liberality of George Carter, formerly provost, who left his whole fortune to the uses of the college.

Between these two lateral ranges of building is placed the *Library*, a chaste and classical edifice, begun in 1788, under the direction of Wyatt. The interior is an oblong of eighty-three feet by twenty-eight, and is twenty feet in height. Among the books is a collection of rare and estimable works, bequeathed by Edward Lord Leigh, of Stoneleigh. The library also contains a painting by Vasari, the subject a group of Italian poets, Guido, Cavalcanti, Dante, Boccaccio, Petrarch, Politian, and Marsilius Ficinus.

The *Hall*, which was built about the year 1627, is a handsome room, fifty feet in length, and nearly twenty in breadth. The sides are wainscotted, and embellished in the Doric style.

Three

Three whole length portraits ornament this room—Edward II. by Hudson; Queen Anne, by Dahl; and the Duke of Beaufort, by Soldi. Among the plate is preserved a cup of silver, gilt, and finely carved, which was presented by the founder.

The first *Chapel* attached to the college was erected late in the fourteenth century, before which period the members had attended Divine service in St. Mary's church. The building then constructed was pulled down in 1630; but the new edifice was not completed till 1642. The arrangement of the interior is simple and unostentatious. The east window is embellished with the presentation of Our Saviour in the Temple, executed by Peckitt, from a design by Dr. Wall.

The following are some of the distinguished persons whose names add importance to the scholastic annals of this house:—Dr. Butler, Bishop of Durham, author of the "Analogy." Robert Langlande, the presumed author of Pierce Plowman. *Sir Walter Raleigh.* Prynne, the republican, whose talents and acquirements were of the first description, though his judgment fell a sacrifice to the delusive spirit of the times in which he lived. Lord Chief Justice Holt, and the elegant and judicious Dr. Joseph Warton.

The society consists of a provost, eighteen fellows, and thirteen exhibitioners.

PEMBROKE COLLEGE

was founded early in the seventeenth century, on the site of Broadgates Hall, a very ancient seminary appertaining to the priory of St. Fridiswida. This hall appears, from an enumeration of some of the principals given by Wood, to have been the resort of many eminent scholars; but the buildings were few and irregular.

The foundation of Pembroke College took place in consequence of the following combination of circumstances. Thomas Tesdale, a native of Standford Dingley, in Berkshire, who had amassed a considerable fortune by farming, and by dealing in malt and wool,

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first at Abingdon, and afterwards at Glympton, near Woodstock, in Oxfordshire, died in the year 1610, and bequeathed 5000l. for the maintenance of certain fellows and scholars from the free-school of Abingdon, in any of the colleges of Oxford. Dr. Abbot, Archbishop of Canterbury, was named as one of the trustees, and he, with the approvance of his coadjutors, at first determined to place the foundation in Balliol College. The sum of 300l. was even advanced for the commencement of additional buildings. At this juncture Richard Wightwick, B. D. rector of East Ilsley, in Berkshire, engaged to make over some estates in aid of Tesdale's benefaction; and it was then resolved to found a new college from these united sources. A petition was duly presented to the king (James I.) by the corporation of Abingdon; and his majesty, in 1624, granted the applicants permission to endow a perpetual college, which should consist of one master, or governor, ten fellows, and ten scholars, (or more or less, according to the tenor of statutes to be afterwards devised,) within the hall denominated Broadgates. He likewise directed that the new institution should bear the name of Pembroke,* and should be considered as "*the Foundation of King James*, at the cost and charges of Thomas Tesdale and Richard Wightwick." While the king thus honoured the society by taking the title of *Founder*, the Earl of Pembroke was styled *Godfather*; and the two liberal persons with whom the foundation originated, were termed the *foster-parents* of the institution.

The master and scholars took possession immediately, but the statutes were not presented till four years afterwards. By these it was directed that the number of Tesdale's fellows should be seven, four to be of his kindred, and the whole to study divinity. Of the six scholars provided by his bounty, two were to be chosen from his poorer kindred educated in Abingdon school, if such should occur, or, if not, from the more needy of his relatives in other situations. Wightwick's foundation consisted of 100l. per

* In compliment of William Herbert, Earl of Pembroke, who was chancellor of the University from 1616 to 1630.

per annum, for the maintenance of three fellows and four scholars, two of each to be chosen from his kindred, and the remainder to be elected from Abingdon school. The right of election was vested in the master of the college, two of Tesdale's senior fellows, the master of Christ's Hospital, Abingdon, two of the senior governors, and the master of the school.

The benefactors to this house have chiefly directed their attention to the increase in number of the fellows and scholars, and to the endowment of exhibitions. Among the contributors of these classes we find the names of Sir John Bennett, K. B. afterwards Lord Ossulston, grandson to Tesdale; George Townsend, of Rowell, in Gloucestershire, Esq.; George Morley, Bishop of Winchester; Lady Elizabeth Holford, and Sir John Phillips, Bart. To these it must be added, that King Charles I. gave the patronage of St. Aldate's Church, Oxford, and founded a fellowship for the natives of Guernsey and Jersey. Queen Anne likewise evinced liberality of patronage, by annexing a prebend of Gloucester to the mastership.

Pembroke College consists chiefly of two courts, both of which are on a contracted scale, with the usual appendages of chapel and hall. Only a small portion of the ancient building called Broadgates Hall now remains. The greater parts of the present edifice were erected, with the aid of private contributions, at various periods of the seventeenth century. The front (completed in 1694) is an unornamented elevation, with a low tower over the entrance. The quadrangle is uniform in its leading features, and possesses much neatness and simplicity. Adjoining the college on the north are the master's lodgings, a handsome modern building, undoubtedly convenient, but affording no hint of collegiate reference in its composition.

The *Chapel* is a small but tasteful building, of the Ionic order, finished in 1732, by the liberal assistance of Bartholomew Tipping, Esq. of Oxford. The interior is decorously, though richly, ornamented. The altar-piece is a fine copy, by Cranke, of Our Saviour after his Resurrection, as painted by Rubens.

The original refectory of Broadgates forms the Hall of the present college. This room is ornamented with a bust of Dr. Johnson, by Bacon, presented by the late Samuel Whitbread, Esq. and contains some good portraits. Among these the most conspicuous are Charles I. a fine and interesting picture. Bishop Morley. Lord Ossulston, and the founders. The books belonging to the society were formerly kept in St. Aldate's Church; but a library is now constructed over the hall.

Several prelates have received education in this college, of whom the most recent is Dr. Moore, Archbishop of Canterbury. Among the eminent of other classes occur the following names: —Sir Thomas Browne, author of the *Religio Medici*. Crew, Earl of Totness, historian of the Irish wars. Sir James Dyer, Chief Justice of the King's Bench. Philip Morant, the historian of Essex. Shenstone, whose elegance of taste should assuredly embalm his memory, since the difficulties into which it led him tended to the shortening of his life. Graves, the contemporary of Shenstone, and the very ingenious author of the "Spiritual Quixotte." *Dr. Johnson*, whose acquirements were calculated to reflect immortal honour on the college which directed his studies *.

The present members of the society are a master, fourteen fellows, and thirty scholars and exhibitioners.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE

takes the sixth place in order of foundation, though the present splendid buildings are of a comparatively recent date. Robert Eglesfeld, Confessor to Queen Philippa, the illustrious consort of Edward III. was the founder of this college. Eglesfeld descended from a family of some consequence in the county of Cumberland, and is supposed to have been born at a hamlet called Eglesfeld, in the parish of Brigham. It is speaking a sufficient

* Johnson's apartment was that on the second floor over the gateway.

sufficient eulogy on his talent and integrity, when we say that he enjoyed for many years the familiar confidence of one of the bravest kings and most excellent queens that ever adorned the English throne. All his eminent opportunities were employed by Egleafeld in defence of the religious establishment, and in promoting the dissemination of letters. He died in the year 1349, and Gough is inclined to believe that he was buried in the original chapel of this college, and that a brass plate, found under the communion table, forms a part of his sepulchral record. This brass "represents a priest in a cap and rich rocket powdered, with *fleurs de lis* in lozenges, faced and hemmed with a different border, and fastened on the breast with a jewel. The sleeves of the black gown are faced with fur." It is certain that the founder is traditionally reported to have been buried in this chapel.

Our local partialities become useful virtues, under certain modifications. We have seen that a fond predilection for the Alpine recesses of Wales assisted in stimulating Ap Rice to the foundation of a college for the benefit of that principality. A veneration for the district in which his youthful days were passed induced Egleafeld to obtain a charter from Edward III. in the year 1340, for such a collegiate hall as might train the genius and cultivate the worth of those north country men who had hitherto been too much engaged in party broils and border-violence.

In a very early stage of this undertaking he appears to have received encouragement from the court; for, in the original charter, the new institution is termed *Aula Scholarium Reginæ de Oxon.* Philippa shortly became the professed protectress of the society, and the honorary patronage has ever since been vested in the queens of England.

The members specified in the charter were a provost and twelve fellows, or scholars. The provost to be in holy orders, and to be elected from the fellows. The whole to be, in the first instance, natives of Cumberland and Westmorland; but afterwards to be partly chosen from other counties in which the college

might possess property. A preference was regularly to be given to Eglesfeld's own kindred; but only four claimants, on the plea of consanguinity, have appeared throughout the many succeeding ages. In the number of scholars specified by the charter it is believed that the founder alluded to the twelve apostles, and he intended to add seventy poor scholars, in attention to the seventy disciples of Christ. The same pious fancy operated on the choice of numbers made by the illustrious Wykeham.

Statutes for the regulation of the college were presented in the year of foundation; and, in the tenor of these, exist some peculiarities, which, though not very important, demand notice. The members were to be summoned to meals by the sound of a horn, or trumpet. Then the fellows, clad in robes of scarlet, were to take place on one side of the board, and to propose philosophical arguments to the poor scholars, who were ordered to kneel on the side opposite. No wonder that learning was confined to a few, in ages during which the approaches to it were rendered so painful and degrading! The scarlet robes of the fellows have long since disappeared, and the scholars no longer kneel, to propound philosophical questions, either before or after meat, but a trumpet still summons the students to the table of refreshment, and thus forcibly reminds the auditor of periods in which the vassal's horn occupied the place of the modern dinner-bell.

The death of Eglesfeld was a severe misfortune to the society. He had not failed to make continual purchases, when opportunities offered, for the enlargement of the college premises, and had prevailed on his royal protector to bestow several advowsons for the permanent benefit of the institution; but the collegiate buildings were yet incomplete; and, undoubtedly, much court-bounty was subsequently lost through the want of an advocate.

Many benefactors, however, speedily arose, by whose judicious beneficence the number of members was increased, and the revenues and church-patronage of the college greatly augmented; but it is impossible to avoid surprise on finding that, in the long list

list of these liberal donors, few occur connected with those northern districts for the peculiar benefit of which the institution was originally designed. The QUEENS who have honoured the college with benefactions are, besides the excellent Philippa, Henrietta Maria, the consort of Charles I. at whose request that king gave three rectories, and as many vicarages. Queen Caroline, who, in 1733, contributed 1000l. to assist in the completion of the buildings, and her majesty the present Queen Charlotte, who presented the sum of 1000l. in aid of the repairs rendered necessary by a fire in the year 1778.

Among the benefactions of the 18th century was one so important in its nature that it has obtained the credit of a new foundation. In the year 1739, John Michel, Esq. of Richmond in Surrey, bequeathed manors and lands to the estimated value of 700l. *per annum*, chiefly for the maintenance of eight master fellows, four bachelor scholars, and four exhibitioners; and for the erection of suitable buildings for the accommodation of the masters and bachelors. Some legal delays took place, but the bequest was confirmed, by an Act of Parliament, in 1751.

Queen's College consists of two courts, the utmost extent of which forms an oblong of 300 feet in length, by 220 in breadth. The grand front is constructed on the south, and constitutes one of the chief ornaments of the High Street, so rich in architectural beauties. In the centre is the richly-embellished gate of entrance, over which, beneath a cupola supported by pillars, is a statue of Queen Caroline. The exterior of the quadrangle-cloister, in which are worked many niches, extends on either side. The extremities of the east and west ranges of chambers, ornamented with a pediment, and surmounted by three statues, abut on the High Street, and complete the display of the front.

The interior of the court (140 feet long, by 130 broad,) is among the finest collegiate examples of modern elegance. A lofty cloister is constructed to the whole length of three of the sides. Above this cloister, on the west, are two stories, con-

sisting of the common room, a spacious gallery communicating with the hall, and apartments for the fellows. The eastern side is occupied by chambers for the society. On the north is a fine elevation, which divides the two courts, and consists of the chapel and the hall. In the centre are four columns of the Doric order, supporting a pediment, the tympanum of which is adorned with emblematical sculpture. Pilasters are placed between the lateral windows, and a balustrade ranges along the whole of the top. The first stone of this quadrangle was laid on the anniversary of Queen Anne's birth, February 6, 1710; but the whole was not completed till 1759; and, in the year 1778, the interior of the west side was totally consumed by fire. We have already observed that her present majesty liberally contributed to the restoration of the building, and a generous emulation among various gentlemen who had received education in the college readily supplied all that was afterwards wanting. The architect of this court was Hawksmoor, though the design is said to have originated either with Sir Christopher Wren or Dr. Lancaster. The whole bears considerable resemblance to the Luxembourg Palace in Paris.

The inner, or north court, is in dimensions 130 feet by 90. On the west is the library, the front of which is abundantly ornamented. The other three sides are occupied by chambers for the society. The buildings of this college, on the whole, afford high gratification to the examiner, though we have been so long accustomed to unite the ideas of Gothic magnificence and solemnity with collegiate structures, that we unavoidably feel pain on beholding a departure from modes of ancient construction, even if convenience be attained by the change of manner. Yet, perhaps, now that we have thrown aside the dark and superstitious practices of monkish ages, it may be desirable, when new buildings are formed on an extensive scale, to abandon also their captivating, but gloomy style of architecture.

The interior of *the Chapel* is enriched with ornaments of the Corinthian order. The ceiling is painted by Sir James Thornhill to represent the Ascension, and the windows are chiefly

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filled with painted glass, removed from the old chapel. Of these the best were executed by Van Linge; but the colours of the more ancient windows are still remarkably brilliant, though the vicissitudes of three centuries have not failed to impair their lustre. The window over the altar contains the Holy Family, executed by Price, in 1717, under which is placed a copy, by Cranke, of Corregio's celebrated Night Piece, in the Dresden Gallery.

The Hall is a fine room, sixty feet by thirty, lighted by many lofty windows, with an opening, designed for an orchestra, communicating with the gallery over the west cloister. The roof is beautifully arched, and the upper part of the windows is adorned with numerous portraits on glass, among which are those of Edward III, and Queen Philippa, Henry V. Charles I. and II. with their queens. The paintings on canvas contain portraits of Queen Philippa, Queen Anne, Queen Caroline, her present majesty, Addison, Tickell, &c. A numerous collection of portraits, both ancient and modern, likewise ornaments the gallery.

The Library was built towards the end of the 17th century, and is one of the largest rooms of its kind attached to any college in the University, it being 123 feet in length, and of a proportionable breadth. The ceiling is stuccoed with much taste, and the cases in which the books are ranged are finely carved. Among the books are the collections of Bishop Barlow, Sir John Floyer, Mr. Michel, and many curious manuscripts (chiefly heraldic) bequeathed by Sir Joseph Williamson. This room, likewise, contains an excellent orrery, presented, in 1763, by six gentlemen commoners, and several good portraits, and busts of benefactors. Among the portraits must be viewed with some interest two very ancient paintings on glass of Henry V. and Cardinal Beaufort, both of which were formerly in a room of the old buildings, called Henry V.'s chamber. A cast, in plaster of Paris, of the Florentine Boar, given by Sir Roger Newdigate, also forms a part of the library ornaments.

The list of distinguished scholars produced by this house is

very extensive. From this we select a few of the names which appear most interesting. Cardinal Beaufort, whose character, though not free from turbulence and ambition, has undoubtedly been darkened by Shakspeare, for the purpose of effecting poetical contrast. Dr. Gibson, Bishop of London, the editor of Camden, and founder of the preacherships at Whitehall. Dr. Tanner, Bishop of St. Asaph, the learned writer of the Notitia. Burton, the commentator on Antoninus. Sir John Floyer, a physician highly deserving of praise, for having laboured to render bathing in cold water a fashionable preservative of health. Halley, the Savilian professor, eminent for philosophical acquirements. Wycherly, the elegant dramatic writer. Edward Rowe Mores, the antiquary; and Dr. Burn, who has rendered incalculable service to every rank of his countrymen by his celebrated work on the Duties and Office of a Justice of the Peace.

Besides these there is an illustrious student claimed by Queen's College, though the correctness of the claim has been disputed by some modern writers. King Henry V. is supposed to have been placed here, under the care of Cardinal Beaufort. No positive record exists to prove the circumstance, for the havoc among college manuscripts effected by the various visitors during impending changes in the religious establishment, preyed alike on the innoxious memorials of past days, and the zealous productions of adverse opinionists; but a chamber in the old college was termed, from age to age, Henry V.'s room; and on a window of this apartment was a portrait of the king, now preserved (as has been mentioned) in the library, with the following inscription;

In perpetuam Rei Memoriam,
Imperator Britannise,
Triumphator Galliæ
Hostium victor, et sui,
Henricus Quintus Hujus Collegii,
Et Cubiculi (minuti scilicet)
Olim magnus Incola,

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It is, likewise, said by Hollingshed that when Henry, then Prince of Wales, repaired to court, in order to clear himself from the imputation of dissolute indolence, he wore "a gown of blue sattin, full of oilet holes, and at every hole a needle hanging by a silken thread." If we admit the validity of Hollingshed's historical evidence, this passage appears to set the argument at rest. For, in observance of a fanciful derivation of Eglesfeld, the founder's name, from *aiguille*, needle, and *fil*, thread, it has been, from a very early period, the custom for the bursar of the college to give to each student, on New Year's Day, a needle and thread, saying at the same time, "take this and be thrifty." No conduct could be more judicious than for the accused prince to present the emblem of such good advice, in token of his careful remembrance of collegiate discipline.

The present members of the society are a provost, sixteen fellows, eight taberdars, (so termed from a short gown, called taberdum, which formed part of their original dress,) sixteen scholars, two chaplains, two clerks, and forty exhibitioners, besides those on Mr. Michel's foundation. The students, unconnected with any foundation, are very numerous.

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE.

This college was founded by Sir Thomas White, who was born in the year 1492, of a trading family, at Reading in Berkshire. He left his native place when twelve years of age, and was apprenticed for the term of ten years to a merchant in London. His conduct, while in this subordinate situation, was so exemplary that his master bequeathed him the sum of one hundred pounds, with which, and a small property inherited from his father, he commenced business. Industry now produced affluence, and affluence procured civic honours. He served the office of Lord Mayor, in 1553, and was knighted by Queen Mary for his opposition to the impotent and deluded Sir Thomas Wyatt.

The wealth acquired by spirited exertion and persevering habits he dedicated to the assistance of the indigent, and to the cultivation of mental intelligence. He gave large sums in trust to the Corporations of Coventry, of Bristol, and Leicester, for the relief of the aged, and the encouragement of young tradesmen oppressed by a want of capital; and, in the year 1555, he obtained permission from Philip and Mary to found a college, to the "praise and honour of God, the Virgin Mary, and St. John the Baptist," for the studies of Divinity, Philosophy, and the Arts. It appears that he at first intended to place his institution at Reading, though he was afterwards persuaded to relinquish that idea. He died at Oxford in 1566, and was buried in the chapel of his own foundation *.

It is in some shape pleasing to find that the whole of the colleges which compose this splendid University were not founded by prelates, who partook of the dignity of the church as formerly established, or by other persons of elevated rank, whose early opportunities enabled them to ascertain the charms of learning by grateful experience. Assuredly it is much to the honour of our country that men, like the chief benefactor of Pembroke and the founder of St. John's, whose lives were passed in commercial speculation, should entertain views so enlarged as to project the encouragement of learning, though they probably only knew what learning meant by observing its happy influence on the morals and manners of society.

The spot chosen for the new foundation was the site of St Bernard's College, a house founded for scholars of the Cistercian order by Archbishop Chichele, but which had been granted by Henry VIII. at the Dissolution, to the establishment of Christ Church. The whole premises enjoyed by the Cistercians consisted only of two acres; but an additional plot of about four acres, nearly completing the bounds of the present college, was soon purchased by the founder.

A body

* It has been asserted by some that this generous man died in indigent circumstances. But there is no authority for such an assertion.

A body of statutes was given shortly after the foundation, by which the society is made to consist of a president, fifty fellows and scholars, three chaplains, three clerks and six choristers. The expense of maintenance was, however, found so great that the chaplains, clerks, and choristers, were shortly discontinued. The statutes nearly resemble in form those of New College, and are believed to have been drawn by Sir William Cordall, master of the Rolls, who was appointed by the founder visitor for life.

The benefactors to this college are numerous, and many of the contributions are on an extensive scale. Among the friends of so liberal an endowment it is pleasing to find the names of the following citizens of London:—Sir Robert Ducie, Hugh Henley, Walter Fish, George Palm, Jeffry Elwes, and George Benson. Of the other benefactors the chief are Archbishop Laud. Dr. Juxon, Archbishop of Canterbury, who gave 7000l. Sir William Paddy, president of the college of physicians, by whom the present choir was founded. Dr. Rawlinson, and Dr. Holmes, president of St. John's, from whose generosity, aided by that of his lady, the society received the sum of 15,000l.

The buildings appertaining to the institution of Archbishop Chichele formed the first residence of Sir Thomas White's society. But extensive improvements were speedily effected, and the college now possesses two fine quadrangles, with all accustomed collegiate elevations.

St. John's College is situate near the northern entrance to the city, and has, in front, a wide terrace and a row of lofty elms. The face towards the street is regular in its features, and interesting in general character. Over the chief entrance is a square tower, with a canopied niche on each side of a bay window. In a niche richly canopied in the upper division is a statue of St. Bernard. An embattled parapet is constructed at the top.

The first quadrangle contains the hall and chapel, the president's lodgings, and chambers for the fellows and scholars. The buildings intended for the use of the society are low, but commodious.

The

The character of the whole is Gothic, with an embattled parapet ranging along the top; but, in too many instances, convenience has been suffered to prevail over taste, and sashes have been substituted for the original stone compartments and venerable casements.

The second quadrangle is the most superb part of the structure. This court (with the exception of the south side, in which is the library,) was erected at the entire expense of Archbishop Laud, from a design by Inigo Jones. The whole display is rich and captivating; but, when deliberately examined, the building is not calculated to reflect unmixed credit on the memory of the architect. Inigo Jones continually laboured to elicit *effect*, but he too often paid little attention to the means by which that result was produced. No man of his era was so great a master of the perspective of architecture; but many of his buildings rather dazzle the eye than satisfy the judgment, when closely inspected. The ranges of this quadrangle are low, in observance of the original mode of collegiate construction. The apartments on the east and west are built over cloisters, supported by eight pillars, and ornamented with busts of the Cardinal and Christian virtues. The general character of the buildings, independent of their cloisters, gateways, and numerous extrinsic ornaments, is Gothic; and an embattled parapet is formed along the top of the whole court. But, in the centre of the east and west divisions, is a splendid gateway, composed of the three Greek orders. On a line with the cloisters are double columns of the Doric. After various sculptured embellishments, double Ionic columns then take place, and support a semicircular pediment. On the face of the one gateway is a brass statue of Charles I. * and on the other a statue, likewise cast in brass, of his queen. Both are placed between columns of the Corinthian order.

The range of structure which looks towards the gardens, and which

* King Charles contributed 200 tons of timber, from the forests of Shotover and Stow, towards the buildings of this court. The statues were cast by Fanelli of Florence, and were taken down and secreted during the civil war.

which forms a second front of the eastern division of this quadrangle, is the most interesting and unobjectionable. This consists of five bay windows of delicate workmanship, supported by brackets of sculptured stone. At each termination is a pediment of airy proportions, and a battlement ranges along the intermediate space. The gardens spread at the base of this fine elevation are very extensive, and the manner in which they are disposed is an honour to the recent period in which the arrangement took place. Mason himself (to whom the picturesque in gardening is so much indebted) might have walked through these lovely recesses without finding subject for critical animadversion.

The Hall, situate on the north side of the first quadrangle, is the original refectory of the institution dedicated to St. Bernard, though it has undergone many necessary and important alterations. It is now a fine and well-proportioned room, the sides wainscotted, and the roof arched and ornamented with much chasteness of design. The screen is of Portland stone, and is eminently handsome. The walls are adorned by portraits of the founder, Archbishops Laud, and Juxon, Sir William Paddy, and other eminent men connected with the college; and likewise, by a a whole length of his present Majesty, painted by Ramsay.

The Library runs through the upper story of the east and south sides of the second quadrangle, and was constructed at two distinct times. The part on the south was completed towards the end of the 16th century by benefactions from the company of Merchant Taylors, aided by the liberality of some members of the college. The eastern division was formed by Archbishop Laud, and is an extensive and fine apartment. The book-cases are highly embellished, and are skilfully contrived to answer the purpose of a gallery. The books thus rendered easy of approach by the judicious mode of arrangement are very numerous, and of the most valuable description. Among them is Archbishop Laud's collection of manuscripts. The following interesting productions of art, besides some natural curiosities, add

to

to the attraction of this library: a fine miniature of Charles I. some paintings on copper of the apostles, supposed by Carlo Dolci. A curious figure of St. John, sculpted in scagliola, by Lambert Gories, and a brass Eagle, executed with very superior skill and spirit, by Mr. Snetzler of Oxford. In this room Laud had the honour to entertain King Charles I. his queen, the Prince Elector, and many of the courtiers, in 1636. "I thank God," says the Archbishop, "I had the happiness that all things were in verie good order, and that no man went out of the gates, courtier or other, but contented." A play was afterwards presented in the hall, and the college is reported by Wood to have been, at that time, "so well furnished as that they did not borrow any one actor from any college in the University."

The chief parts of *the Chapel* are the same which appertained to the original institution. Considerable improvements were made by Sir Thomas White, and the general character of the interior has been altered at a more recent period. The Corinthian order now prevails throughout. Over the communion table is a fine piece of tapestry, after Titian, representing Our Saviour, with the Disciples, at Emmaus. The figures are said to be portraits of the Pope, the kings of France and Spain, and Titian. Over the handsome Corinthian screen is placed a very good organ.

A smaller chapel, on the north side of the ancient building, was erected in 1662. The roof is finely enriched in the Gothic manner, and ornamented with the arms of Archbishop Laud.

Within the walls are deposited the remains of the founder, of Archbishop Laud, (first interred at Allhallows, Barking, near the Tower of London) and of Archbishop Juxon, together with many other eminent persons connected with St. John's. On the north wall is a marble urn, which contains *the heart* of the benevolent, but eccentric, Dr. Rawlinson, who contributed largely to the prosperity of the college. The remainder of his body was interred in the church of St. Giles, Oxford.

In

in the common room, a handsome building on the north of the hall, is a painting of St. John the Baptist, by Titian.

But splendid buildings, rare books, and exquisite sculpture, form, in their most stupendous assemblage, only a secondary cause of exultation. The distinguished scholars, and ornamental members of the more active walks of society, raised by a collegiate institution, are the subjects of its rational pride. The following limited selection of names connected with this house will be sufficient to prove that the worthy founder is entitled to the gratitude of posterity:—Archbishop Laud, the story of whose eventful life is so well known. He was successively scholar, fellow, grammar-lecturer, divinity lecturer *, and president of St. John's. Dr. Juxon, Archbishop of Canterbury, who attended to the scaffold his ill-fated master, Charles I. Gregory Martin, the principal translator of the Rhemish Testament. Shirley, the dramatist. Sir Bulstrode Whitelocke, the very able annalist of his own disastrous era. Although Whitelocke proved, on several occasions, that his political maxims were of a ductile texture, the principle of gratitude was active in his bosom. He had received favours while at college from Archbishop Laud, and he resolutely refused to assist in the prosecution of his former friend. Ambrose Bonwicke, one of the most erudite masters of Merchant Taylor's School. Dr. Ducarel, an antiquary of eminent attainments. Dr. John Monro, the physician. Whalley the commentator on Ben Jonson, and Dean Tucker.

The livings possessed by this college are numerous. The present members are a president, fifty fellows, two chaplains, and a choir. Thirty-seven of the fellows are chosen from Merchant Taylor's School.

TRINITY COLLEGE.

The charter for founding this college was obtained from Philip and Mary, in the year 1554, by Sir Thomas Pope. The founder was

* On a foundation by Mrs. Maye, since lost.

was born at Dedington, in Oxfordshire, of parents in that middle walk of life which is so often found prolific of enterprise and genius. He received the rudiments of education at the school of Banbury, and then removed to Eton College. He entered on the theatre of the great world as a Student of Law; but, at the age of twenty-seven, was so fortunate as to attract the notice of King Henry VIII. after which period he filled various offices in the service of the state. The most important of his appointments, and that which led to the speedy acquirement of immense property, was the treasurership of the court of augmentations. This court was established for the purpose of valuing and selling the possessions which fell to the crown in consequence of the dissolution of monastic houses. Sir Thomas held the office for five years; and, though his conduct was unimpeachable, the advantage to his fortune was immense. Notwithstanding his readiness of accordance with the views of the court in this instance, he was unalterably attached to the ancient religion, and remained in retirement from public business during the reign of the sixth Edward; but was made cofferer to the household, and received into distinguished favour, on the accession of Mary. So implicit was the confidence placed in him by this sovereign, that the Princess Elizabeth was consigned to his care when the jealousy of the court rendered her removal necessary. He received his illustrious charge at Hatfield House, in Hertfordshire, and honourably laboured to render her situation as pleasant as circumstances would admit. It is interesting to find that he frequently conversed with his distinguished visitor concerning the college which he had recently established. Elizabeth examined that part of the statutes which related to collegiate study, and expressed much satisfaction on the perusal. She, likewise, at this stage of life appears to have considered as venial an offence which afterwards would have been deemed of frightful magnitude. Two of the fellows violated the statute *De muris Noctu non Scandendis.* The offenders were submitted to the judgment of the Princess, and they were pardoned!

The

The inflexibility of Sir Thomas Pope's religious opinions debarred him from employment when Elizabeth gained power. He died in 1559, and was interred in the church of St. Stephen's, Wainbrook, with his second wife. His body was, however, afterwards removed to Oxford, and an account of his monument will be found in our notice of Trinity Chapel. Sir Thomas was thrice married, and left a widow, whose attention to the interests of this college was so liberal and unremitting, that she was, at the time, generally honoured with the name of foundress.

The generosity of Sir Thomas was limited only by his resources. His endowment of the new foundation consisted of thirty-five manors, and thirteen advowsons, besides various impropriations and pensions! The society was formed of a president, a priest, twelve fellows (four of whom should be priests) and twelve scholars, to be elected from the different places in which the college possessed property. The statutes were transmitted in 1556, and were revised by Cardinal Pole, who is supposed to have bestowed many useful remarks. These statutes, with some slight alterations, made by the first president with the consent of the founder, still remain in force.

The original endowment appears to have been considered so liberal that few benefactors have appeared, except in aid of the buildings. But the donations towards these have been of a munificent description.

When Sir Thomas Pope arranged the settlement of his college, he attended to the example of many comparatively recent founders, and purchased ancient tenements, which were commodious and extensive, though the sources from which students should be supplied were in an impoverished state. The buildings obtained on this occasion were termed Durham College, and were erected in the 14th century, by Thomas Hatfield, Bishop of Durham, on the foundation of Richard de Hoton, Prior of Durham, in 1289. These consisted of one quadrangle, a hall, library, and chapel. Some improvements took place in the early part of the

17th century, and important additions were made in the course of the next hundred years. But the edifice is still destitute of that progressive harmony of parts which leads to a grandeur of architectural display. A large avenue, divided from the street by an iron palisade, with handsome folding gates, conducts to the first court. The front consists of the chapel, with the tower of entrance; and is a pleasing, though not august, specimen of classic elegance.

The first court contains the chapel, the hall, the president's lodgings, the library, and some apartments for the society. The dissimilarities of style are great, but the side ornamented by the classic features of the chapel, perhaps, gains fresh charms from the irregularity conspicuous in other parts.

The inner court consists of three sides, with the college gardens spread in front. The whole of these buildings are occupied by chambers for the scholars, and were built according to the plan of Sir Christopher Wren, though not completed till the year 1728. Internal convenience and fairness of dimensions appear to have been the chief aims of the architect, and these aims he has happily accomplished. It must be interesting to observe that the north side of this court (finished in 1667) was the first effort of the modern architecture in the University. All had hitherto been Gothic, or a senseless mixture of the Gothic with the Grecian orders. Wren's edifice is simple, substantial, and of pleasing proportions; yet, perhaps, from such a man a more striking design might have been expected. All opportunity of blame has been avoided; but we cannot find a feature to notice as worthy of admiration. The first idea of an additional court is said to have originated with Dr. Bathurst, who was then president.

The gardens which lie spread in front of this court are extensive. A spacious walk, terminated with a handsome iron gate, runs through the centre. A part of these grounds is judiciously formed into plots of grass; but the funereal yew preponderates to a painful

a painful degree among the principal of the avenues. The gloomy recesses produced by these long and formal hedges seem rather suited to the monks of Durham than the students on the modern foundation.

The first stone of the present chapel was laid by Dr. Bathurst, in 1691, and the building was completed in 1694. This liberal friend to the society contributed, on his own account, nearly 2000l. and procured subscriptions for the sums still wanting, from several distinguished persons who had received education at the college. The chapel is one of the finest instances in Oxford of a striking effect produced by a classic simplicity of arrangement, and is supposed to have been built after a design by Dean Aldrich, corrected by Sir Christopher Wren. The interior is highly embellished, yet does not possess any ornament that appears superfluous. The screen is of cedar, and the altar-piece is of the same wood, enriched with some exquisite carving (unquestionably the best in the University) by Gibbons. The altar is also decorated by a copy, in needle-work, of West's Painting of the Resurrection, executed, and presented to the college, by Miss Althea Fanshawe, late of Shiplake Hill, Oxfordshire. This piece is worked with so much spirit and fidelity, that the evident instability of the colours is much to be regretted. The ceiling is richly stuccoed, and ornamented with a painting of the Ascension, by Peter Berchet, a French artist. In a recess at the upper end of the chapel, on the north, is the monument of Sir Thomas Pope, the founder, with his whole length figure, and that of his third lady, in alabaster, highly preserved. Of the plate belonging to the original chapel one article only remains; a chalice of gilded silver, finely engraved, which was formerly possessed by the abbey of St. Alban's.

The present *Hall* was built in the early part of the 17th century, and is a plain but spacious and well-proportioned room. The following portraits ornament the upper end:—The founder, a three quarters length, in a black gown, faced with lucerne spots, a copy from Holbein. Mr. Warton, a fine portrait, by

Penrose, the face expressing much contented good-humour, as well as genius*. Dr. Bathurst, copied from the print after a miniature by Loggan.

A room used by the monks of Durham as a receptacle for their few books was improved by Sir Thomas Pope, and still forms the college *Library*. New book-cases were purchased in the reign of Elizabeth, since which period the chief alterations consist in a fresh arrangement of the windows. This improvement took place in 1766, and the utmost respect was paid to every vestige of former days. Each window contains interesting, though fragmentary, specimens of ancient painted glass. The room is, likewise, adorned by a portrait of the founder, nearly similar to that before described; by a portrait of Mr. Rands, a benefactor; and by a handsome tablet, executed by Flaxman, to the memory of Mr. Warton. The founder presented some books, and great additional contributions have been made by various members, particularly in the topographical class.

The following are some of the distinguished persons connected with this college:—Archbishop Sheldon. Chillingworth. Sir John Denham, the poet. Harrington, author of the Oceana. Charles Montague, Earl of Halifax. The erudite and public-spirited Dr. Bathurst, who was president for the long term of forty years. He died in 1704, having nearly completed the eighty-fourth year of his age. The second Earl of Guildford (Lord North) whose talents might have been revered by posterity had they been called into exercise at a more propitious era. Henry Birkenhead, founder of the Poetry Lecture in the University, and the urbane, the elegant and the ingenious Thomas Warton.

The society now, as originally, consists of a president, twelve fellows,

* In the common room is another portrait of Warton, by Rising, and in the bursary are portraits of Dr. Kettel, of Dr. Bathurst, and Dame Elizabeth Paulet, the founder's widow. The latter is thought to have been painted by Sir Antonio More, and is known to have been in the college previous to the year 1613.

fellows, and twelve scholars. The scholars are superannuated after nine years.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.

We have already found occasion for mentioning the futile disputes in which the scholars of former periods were engaged, respecting the probable antiquity of the University at large. A clamour of controversy, nearly as loud, and still more useless, prevailed concerning the foundation of this particular college. The partisans who were willing to believe that a learned seminary, like an ennobled individual, gains additional consequence from remote origin of title, maintained that University College was founded by King Alfred. But their hypothesis was chiefly built on crude legendary tradition. No mention of Alfred occurs in the earliest body of statutes presented to the society, and the property possessed by the college is clearly traced to sources unconnected with that sovereign *.

The pious and liberal individual with whom the formation of the society really originated was William of Durham (probably so entitled from the place of his birth) Rector of Wearmouth. He died, on his return from Rome, at Rouen in Normandy, in the year 1249, leaving a will, in which he bequeathed to the University of Oxford the sum of three hundred and ten marks, to purchase rents for the maintenance of as many masters, or students of the highest academical honour, as the income might admit, the whole to be natives of Durham and its vicinity. At

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* William Smith, "Rector of Melsonby, and above twelve years senior fellow of University College," published, in 1728, an octavo volume of satisfactory Replies to those who contended for the great antiquity of the foundation. This book was noticed, with a torrent of abuse, by Hearne. But Smith had adhered to authentic documents only, and the simplicity of his statement defied opposition. The University does not possess, in all its records, the least hint of Alfred having founded, or bestowed assistance on, any particular hall, or scholastic seminary whatever.

that time no precedent existed for the foundation of a separate college, and the heads of the University lent to scholars the money accruing from the bequest, though not without obtaining security, and stipulating for the payment of interest. They shortly, however, purchased various houses in Oxford, and chiefly distributed the rents among the poorer masters of arts. In 1280, the managers of the property profited by the example of Walter De Merton, and appointed four masters for the regulation of a separate society, to be maintained from the finances, under specified conditions. Thus University College claims the second place in rank of foundation. A small body of statutes was formed in 1292; and, in 1311, a more complete code was presented, by which the students were directed to be called *William of Durham's Scholars.*

It is supposed that the society first resided in the ancient building, termed University Hall, which now forms a part of the site of Brasen-nose College. The time of their removal is not clearly ascertained; but there seems reason to believe that they occupied a tenement on the site of their present edifice in the High Street, as early as 1343. This tenement was called Durham hall, not from the founder of the present college, but from Andrew of Durham, an alderman of Oxford. It afterwards popularly obtained other appellations; and, on the removal of William of Durham's Society, they termed themselves (in allusion to their former spot of occupancy) *the masters and scholars of the Hall of the University of Oxford.* Their new place of residence they styled *Great University Hall.* They shortly enlarged the site by several purchases; and, in 1475, they received a fresh body of statutes, which, with some trifling additions, is still in force. Before the termination of the fourteenth century the first collegiate building was finished, in a quadrangular form.

Many pious friends of learning contributed to the support of this house at a very early period; and, in 1403, Walter Skirlaw, Bishop

Bishop of Durham *, gave the manor of Rothyng Margaret, or Mark's Hall, in Essex, for the maintenance of three fellows, natives of York or Durham. He, also, presented some manuscripts to the library. Among the subsequent benefactors, who are extremely numerous, the following are the most conspicuous:—Henry, Earl of Northumberland, about 1442, bestowed some land, and the advowson of a rectory, for the support of three bachelors, or masters of arts, of the dioceses of Durham, Carlisle, and York. Joan Davys, wife of a citizen of Oxford, gave, in 1566, certain estates for the maintenance of two logic lecturers, or one on logic and another on philosophy; and for an augmentation of the allowance to the masters and fellows. Francis Russel, second Earl of Bedford, left by will, in 1584, twenty pounds *per annum* for two poor students in divinity, to be called the Earl of Bedford's scholars; and Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, three years afterwards, bequeathed lands for the maintenance of two scholars, at the rate of twenty pounds *per annum* each. John Freyston, of Altofts in Yorkshire, Esq. besides a benefaction in money, gave, in 1592, an estate in Pontefract, for a fellow and two scholars, to be natives of the county of York. In 1618, the Rev. Robert Gunsley bequeathed the rectory of Flamsted, in Hertfordshire, for the maintenance of two scholars, to be chosen by the master and fellows from the grammar schools of Rochester and Maidstone. Each scholar to be a native of Kent, unless he could claim kindred with the testator †. Sir Simon Bennet, Bart. in 1631, left the reversion of Hanley Lodge and Park, in Northamptonshire,

* This prelate was born at Skirlaw, in Yorkshire, and eloped from his father's house when a boy. He gained access to the University, and applied so assiduously to learning, and formed such serviceable connexions, that he became successively Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry, of Wells and of Durham. It is said that his parents remained ignorant of his situation till he was Bishop of the latter diocese, when he revealed himself, and conduced to the comfort of their declining years.

† The allowance to each is 15l. *per ann.* and chambers in the college. It is observed, that nearly one half of these scholars have been of the benefactor's kindred.

emptonshire, chiefly for the institution of eight fellowships, and eight scholarships; but the estate has only proved sufficient to the maintenance of four of each class. Dr. Radcliffe, whose name is so justly dear to the University and city, ranks among the most liberal friends of this college. Besides rendering munificent assistance to the buildings, Radcliffe instituted two travelling fellowships for students in medicine. Each fellow receives 300l. *per ann.* for ten years, the first five of which he is required to spend abroad.

University College is situate on the south side of the High Street, and consists principally of two courts. The front is more than 260 feet in length, and is a regular erection, of a substantial and commanding character. There are two gateways, at equal distances from the extremities of the range, each of which is surmounted by a tower. These gateways lead immediately to the courts. On the outer side of that which conducts to the western square is a statue of Queen Anne, and on the inner side a statue of James II. indifferently executed; and presented, during the reign of that monarch, by one of the few strenuous friends of his religious principles. The tower over the gateway on the east is ornamented towards the street with a statue of Queen Mary, and on the interior with another, more spirited and pleasing, of Dr. Radcliffe.

The western quadrangle is a regular and handsome Gothic structure, 100 feet square. This part of the buildings was formed at different periods of the seventeenth century, under the direction of the Rev. Charles Greenwood. The chapel and hall are placed on the south side; and this division of the edifice is much indebted to the recent exertions of Dr. Griffith, the present master. The original centre of the façade was heavy, and devoid of character; Dr. Griffith has designed, and superintended the execution of, a bay window, finely Gothic, with a slightly-indented canopy on each side. His own chissel has, likewise, ornamented the moulding of the quadrangle with the heads of various benefactors, &c.

The

The eastern court possesses only three sides, each of which is about eighty feet in length, and opens on the south to the master's garden. The ranges on the north and east were built at the expense of Dr. Radcliffe. The whole of this division is judiciously consistent with the more ancient quadrangle, and does not, indeed, possess, in any respect, a more modern appearance. It is much to be regretted that the stone of the neighbouring quarries, of which the chief buildings of the University were necessarily composed, is of so porous and ductile a quality, that the surface *peels off* after the exposure of a few years to the vicissitudes of weather. Although this circumstance may not seriously affect the durability of this splendid architectural assemblage, it conveys an idea of decay productive of unpleasing sensations in the beholder.

Only the most splendid collegiate establishments possessed a distinct and peculiar place of Divine worship during the early periods of their existence. The members of University College long attended religious service at St. Mary's, or St. Peter's in the East. An oratory, or chapel, was constructed for their use, though probably on a very humble scale, at the latter part of the fourteenth century. This was supplanted by a more important building; but, in 1639, the second edifice was pulled down, and the foundation of the present chapel laid. The era was lamentably unpropitious, and the building was not completed till 1665, when it was consecrated on the day of St. Cuthbert (the patron-saint of the original pile,) by Dr. Blandford, Bishop of Oxford. The windows are filled with painted-glass. That on the east was executed by Giles, of York, and was presented by Dr. Radcliffe, in 1687. The chief merit of the old school of glass-painting usually consists in brilliancy of tints; but the colours of this window are already nearly faded into obscurity. The other windows are by Abraham Van Linge, and retain all their pristine vividness, but they are by no means remarkable for elegance of design. The screen is of the Corinthian order, and is embellished

lished by carving attributed to Gibbons. The altar-piece is a Salvator Mundi, after Carlo Dolce, burned in wood (beech) by Dr. Griffith. This curious performance is surrounded by carving, supposed, like that in the screen, to be the work of Gibbons. Assuredly it is not equal in execution to the carving in the chapel of Trinity College; but, perhaps, some delicacy of tool may be hidden by the load of varnish with which this carving is encumbered. The ceiling is of groined Gothic, and is eminently chaste and attractive. The ante-chapel contains an interesting monument of Sir William Jones, presented by his widow, and executed by Flaxman. It is a composition highly creditable to the talents of that artist. The bas-relief is supported by tyger's heads, and represents the lamented subject of the funereal trophy engaged in a digest of the Hindoo Code, with Bramins in attendance. Emblems of classical grace and eastern acquirement surmount the monumental inscription.

The present *Library* was completed in 1669. The works here collected are numerous, and of a valuable description.

The *Hall* is a spacious and handsome room, begun in 1640, but not completed till the more tranquil days of Charles II. Until the year 1766, this apartment was warmed, in the ancient mode, by a stove in the centre. The present chimney-piece is an elegant Gothic combination, presented by Sir Roger Newdigate. At the lower end of the room is a screen of wood, tastefully arranged in the same style with the beautiful chimney-piece. The south window has some painted glass, by Giles; and the roof is ornamented with various armorial bearings. This very handsome refectory contains the following portraits: Sir Roger Newdigate, a liberal friend to the institution, and one of the representatives of the University in several Parliaments. Lord Radnor. Sir William Scott. Sir Robert Chambers; a portrait possessed of much spirit and character, taken, with some slight alterations, from a painting done in the east. A full length of Lord Moira, by Hoppner, presented by his Lordship.

In the *Common Room* is a fine bust of Alfred, by Wilton, from Ryebrach's model. This apartment is, likewise, embellished by the portraits of King Henry IV. and Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, burned in wood by Dr. Griffith. Such a style of delineation is, perhaps, curious rather than desirable; but there is a great portion of spirit infused into the latter piece. The common room of University College was a favored place of resort with Dr. Johnson, and a fine print of the great moralist acts as a memorial of that circumstance. An engraved likeness of Sir William Jones is placed as a companion. In the ante-room is a good bust of Mr. Pitt, presented to the college by the younger students.

Among the eminent persons connected with this house, besides Walter Skirlaw, Bishop of Durham, whose fortunate peculiarity of circumstances we have before noticed, are Richard Flemming, Bishop of Lincoln, founder of Lincoln College; Potter, Archbishop of Canterbury, author of the Grecian Antiquities; Lord Herbert, of Cherbury, the most eccentric character of his era, but, certainly, an accomplished scholar, and a man of intentional rectitude; William Smith, the judicious writer respecting the foundation of this college; the Rev. Joseph Bingham, author of the *Origines Ecclesiasticæ;* Dr. Radcliffe was of University before he removed to Lincoln College; Carte, the historian, afterwards of Cambridge, took his first degree here; Iago, the elegiac poet, was servitor at this college; Sir Robert Chambers, second Justice of the Supreme Court of Judicature in Bengal; Sir William Jones, a bright example to the literary world!—"I am not insensible," says Sir William, "to the charms of pleasure, but I love fame better." He pursued his object steadily, and his name will receive the applause of posterity.

The society consists of a master, twelve fellows, and seventeen scholars. The king is visitor.

WORCESTER

WORCESTER COLLEGE

is agreeably situated on a slight eminence, near the bank of the river Isis, at the western extremity of the city. On the same spot formerly stood Gloucester Hall, a seminary in which the Benedictine Monks of Gloucester studied Philosophy and Theology. This seminary was governed by a prior, and was found of so eligible a description, that it, at length, received students from many of the most important abbeys in England. The scholars were allowed to take degrees as in the other learned establishments of the University.

At the Dissolution the premises were bestowed on certain individuals; but, when Oxford was created a see, they were chosen for the residence of the bishop. They were soon, however, resumed by the crown, and were granted by Elizabeth, in the second year of her reign, to William Doddington, of whom they were purchased by Sir Thomas White. Sir Thomas had recently founded the college of St. John; and he constituted his new purchase an appendage to the foundation, under the name of St. John Baptist's Hall. Within the walls he speedily settled a principal, who was to be a fellow of St. John's, and a hundred scholars, the chief of whom he maintained at his sole expense. When the buildings were purchased by Sir Thomas White, they were altogether in a decayed state; and the chapel and library had fallen a complete sacrifice to King Henry's agents. But a due succession of principals continued till the beginning of the eighteenth century. The number of scholars, however, gradually diminished; and, in 1678, the hall was inhabited only by the principal, and a few obscure families who were allowed to occupy the rooms gratuitously.

But this deserted edifice was destined to a speedy restoration of celebrity. In the year 1701, Sir Thomas Cookes, of Bentley Pauncefort in the parish of Tardebigg, Worcestershire, Bart. bequeathed the sum of 10,000l. for the erecting of a collegiate building

building in Oxford, and for the maintenance of as many fellows and scholars as the residue of the sum bequeathed would admit; or, otherwise, for the endowing of fellowships, and scholars' places, to be added to a collegiate establishment already existing. A preference in the choice of students to be given to persons educated in the testator's schools of Bromsgrove and Feckenham, and such of them principally as should be of his kindred; or, for want of proper boys in those schools, such as are educated in the free-schools of Worcester, Hartlebury, and Kidderminster, and other free-schools in the county of Worcester.

The sum thus bequeathed accumulated to the amount of 15,000l. before the managers determined on the most desirable mode of applying it. Gloucester Hall was at length purchased of St. John's College; and letters patent were obtained from Queen Anne, in 1714, for erecting it into a college, by the name of "the Provost, Fellows, and Scholars of Worcester College, in the city of Oxford."

The foundation was fortunate in speedily attracting the notice of benefactors. In 1717, Mrs. Margaret Alcorne, of Oxford, bequeathed one half of her estates, real and personal; but it was proved that she had only a life-interest in the former, and the college, therefore, only obtained 798l. the moiety of her personal property, which was directed, by a decree of Chancery, to be expended on the new buildings. Lady Elizabeth Holford founded two exhibitions of twenty pounds each, for charter-house scholars. Dr. James Fynney, a fellow of St. John's, left 2500l. for two fellowships and two scholarships. George Clarke, D. C. L. bequeathed estates for the foundation of six fellowships and three scholarships; and, in 1739, Mrs. Sarah Eaton, daughter of Dr. Eaton, formerly principal of Gloucester Hall, endowed six fellowships and five scholarships, for the sons of clergymen only.

The buildings of Worcester College already completed consist of a chapel, a hall, a library, and an elegant range of apartments on the north for the use of members of the society. The architecture of the whole is of a noble and chaste character. In

front is the library, a fine structure of the Ionic order, 100 feet in length, with the chapel projecting on one side, and the hall on the other. A spacious cloister supports the library in the front towards the court. The buildings on the north contain three stories of commodious rooms for students, with lodgings for the provost. On the opposite side is a low irregular range, which formed a part of the ancient buildings tenanted by the Benedictine Monks. According to the original design, these low tenements are to be removed, and a pile raised of a character corresponding with the division on the north. It is intended that the court shall open on the west to the college gardens.

The *Chapel* is a structure of fine proportions, but entirely unornamented, with an exception of the roof, which is delicately staccoed.

The *Hall* is sixty feet in length by thirty feet in width, with two Corinthian columns at the western end.

The *Library* is the most interesting part of the buildings. A gallery runs to the whole extent of this spacious room, and along both ends. Among the books is a valuable collection, particularly rich in architectural works, made by Dr. Clarke, who left a sum for the benefit of a librarian and under-librarian, and also fifty pounds yearly for the augmentation of the books. In this room are the portraits of Sir Thomas Cookes, the founder, and of Dr. Clarke.

Gloucester Hall had the honour of affording education to three bishops. Richard Lovelace, the poet, and Sir Kenelm Digby, likewise studied at the same place. The learned Diggory Wheare was principal from 1626 to 1647.

The present foundation consists of a provost, twenty-one fellows, sixteen scholars, and three exhibitioners.

WADHAM COLLEGE.

On the site of this college formerly stood the priory of Austin Friars, a scholastic house of so much celebrity, that the University

sity acts were kept, and the exercises in arts performed there, before the divinity school was built. Shortly after the Dissolution these premises were demolished; and, after passing through various hands, the site became the property of the mayor, bailiffs, and commonalty of Oxford. Of them it was purchased for the use of the present foundation.

The founder of Wadham College was Nicholas Wadham, Esq. of Edge and Merrifield, in Somersetshire. This gentleman was born in the county in which he resided, and studied at Oxford. He inherited a liberal estate, and managed his inheritance with so much care, that he considerably augmented its annual profits, and accumulated nearly 14,000l. in money. He married Dorothy, the daughter of Sir William Petre, a man who has been already mentioned among the most beneficent contributors to the welfare of the University. Without detracting from the generous ardour of Wadham, we may be allowed to suppose that the family inclination of his lady towards endowment and benefaction had some influence in directing his bounty to the channel under consideration.

Wadham had deliberately formed the design of a collegiate institution, but died before his plan could be carried into effect. His lady survived him nine years, and, with the aid of trustees, was enabled to accomplish his laudable wish. The king's licence for foundation was granted in 1611; and the statutes were confirmed in the following year. By these the society is declared to consist of a warden, fifteen fellows, fifteen scholars, two chaplains, and two clerks. The first election was made by the foundress, with the exception of one fellow and two scholars, who were nominated by the Corporation of Oxford, according to a previous arrangement in the purchase of the site.

Among other benefactions, John Goodridge, M. A. sometime fellow, gave, in 1654, an estate and money for the use of four exhibitioners, three scholars, the moderator in divinity, &c. Humphrey Hody, Archdeacon of Oxford, endowed ten exhibitions, four for students of Hebrew, and six for students of Greek.

Richard

Richard Warner, Esq. founded a botanical exhibition in 1775. Dr. John Wills, warden of the college, who died in 1806, made the following noble bequests to the society :—400l. *per annum*, in addition to the warden's salary ; 1000l. to improve the warden's lodgings; two exhibitions of 100l. each to two fellows, students or practitioners in law or medicine; and two exhibitions of 20l. each to two scholars pursuing the same studies ; 20l. *per annum* for a divinity lecturer in the college to read lectures on the thirty-nine articles; an annual exhibition of 75l. for a superannuated fellow, not possessing property to the amount of 75l. yearly; to one other superannuated fellow, not having property to the amount of 100l. 50l. *per annum;* 111. 10s. to a preacher, for four sermons annually in the college chapel; books, to the value of five or six pounds yearly, *to the best reader of lessons in the chapel.* Dr. Wills, likewise, left considerable sums for purposes connected with the University at large, and directed the residue of his fortune, after some legacies to very distant relations, to be employed as a fund for the purchase of livings for this college.

The buildings of Wadham College are comprised in one quadrangle, nearly 130 feet square. The whole of the edifice, except a building of three stories on the south of the front, erected in 1694, was completed by the foundress, at the expense of 10,816l. 7s. 8d. The front, which is opposite to Trinity Gardens, has a central tower over the entrance, and a bay projection at each end, surmounted by a pediment. The quadrangle is an attractive specimen of modern Gothic, though, in one instance, the false taste of the era induced the violation of simplicity by the introduction of classic embellishments. Three sides of the court are occupied by the warden's lodgings, and apartments for the society. On the east are the hall and chapel. In the centre of this latter division is a portico, ornamented with four ranges of columns and pilasters of the classic orders. In niches of the lower compartment are statues of Nicholas and Dorothy Wadham, the former in armour, with a model of the building in his hand. Between the two figures is the following inscription :

AN.

AN, DOM. 1613. APR. 29.
SUB AUSPICIIS R. JACOBI.
HOSPES,
QUAM VIDES DOMUM MUSIS NUNCUPATAM PONENDAM
MANDABAT NICHOLAUS WADHAM SOMERSETENSIS
ARMIGER. VERUM ILLE FATO PRÆREPTUS DOROTHEÆ
CONJUGI PERFICIENDAM LEGABAT. ILLA INCUNCTANTER
PERFECIT, MAGNIFICEQUE SUMPTIBUS SUIS AUXIT.
TU SUMME PATER ADSIS PROPITIUS, TUOQUE MUNERI ADDAS
QUÆSUMUS PERPETUITATEM.

In an embellished niche, above the founder and foundress, is a statue of James I. and the royal arms are placed in the upper compartment. The chapel and library extend eastward, and form two ornamental sides to an inner division, or garden court. It is pleasing to observe that the uniformity of the whole edifice has remained uninjured to the present day.

The gardens attached to this college are extensive, and disposed, in the modern style, with much delicacy of taste.

The *Chapel* is a handsome Gothic structure, seventy feet in length by thirty in width, with an ante-chapel of still larger dimensions at right angles with the choir. The east window is of the finest Gothic, and is filled with painted glass, by Bernard Van Linge, in 1623. In the upper part are represented the most obvious types of Christ from the Old Testament. In the lower division is displayed the fulfilment of these indications by various events in the history of the Saviour. The whole deserves to rank among the best efforts of Van Linge.

Immediately beneath this window is a singular performance, by Isaac Fuller, which can scarcely be expressed by any other term than that of *dry painting*. The fanciful artist took cloth of an ash-colour for his medium, and worked the lines and shades of his intended picture with a brown crayon, and the lights with a white one. These dry colours were then pressed with hot irons, and the warmth produced an exsudation from the cloth which caused the colours to imprint a dye, proof against all danger of removal by the rudest touch. This piece contains representa-

tions of the Lord's Supper, and the Children of Israel gathering Manna, together with figures of Abraham and Melchisedec. The colours are now so much faded that it is very difficult to trace the design. The chapel is paved with black and white marble, but was constructed at an era so unfavorable to church-ornament that we cannot expect any splendour of internal embellishment. In the ante-chapel are the monuments of many eminent members of the society.

The *Library* is a commodious room, with a fine Gothic window at the upper end, in which are inserted two small portraits of the founder and his lady. Among the books are those which formerly belonged to Dr. Bisse, Archdeacon of Taunton; many valuable works in the Spanish language, procured by Sir William Godolphin while engaged in an embassy to Spain; and the estimable collection of Mr. Richard Warner, whose admiration of Shakspeare is well known to have induced him to procure every edition of his works, and every treatise connected with them. There are, likewise, many specimens of early printing in this library.

The *Hall* is one of the largest in the University; and, like the library, is ornamented at the upper end with a window conspicuously beautiful. In the window are inserted two small portraits of Charles I. and his queen. The dimensions of this room are seventy feet by thirty-five, and the sides are adorned by the following portraits: the Founder and Foundress; Sir John Strangeways; John Goodridge; John, Lord Lovelace; Chief Justice Pratt; Mr. Harris of Salisbury; Arthur Onslow, the Speaker; George I.; William III.; Dr. Bisse; Dr. Hody and his Lady; and the wardens, Wright, Bishop of Bristol; Smith; Wilkins, Bishop of Chester; Blandford, Bishop of Worcester; Ironside, Bishop of Hereford; Dunster; Baker, Bishop of Norwich; and Wills.

From the above list of portraits it will be observed that several of the wardens have been promoted to the episcopal bench; and

many

many other prelates have, at different times, been connected with this college. The following are some of the most conspicuous members of the society in other classes: Sir C. Sedley; Admiral Blake; Creech, the translator of Lucretius; Dr. Trapp; Dr. Kennicott, the eminent Hebraist; and John Richardson, author of the Persian Dictionary.

It must not be forgotten in the annals of Wadham College, that one of the most pleasing subjects of national pride, the Royal Society, originated in this house. The first meetings were held in a room over the gateway; and Dr. Wilkins, then warden, who had married Cromwell's sister, and was afterwards Bishop of Chester, conduced with much zeal to the permanency of the establishment.

The society founded by Wadham consists of a warden, fifteen fellows, fifteen scholars, two chaplains, and two clerks. According to the statutes of the foundress the warden was to resign if he married, or was advanced to a bishopric; but the former relic of monastic austerity was dispensed with by the act of Parliament which passed in 1806. The fellows are to vacate on completing eighteen years from the expiration of their regency, and they are elected from the scholars, of whom three are taken from Somersetshire, three from Essex, and the remaining nine from any other part of Great Britain.

In the early ages of University education the students lodged in the houses of the citizens, or formed themselves into societies, under popular teachers, and rented separate tenements erected for their use by speculative natives of Oxford. When a tenement was so rented it was termed A HALL, and became, in some measure, a spot irrecoverably dedicated to the purposes of learning; for the proprietor could neither sell nor demise the building, without a legal assurance that it should remain open to the use of the University while required. If he wished to advance the rent, the propriety of such a demand was investigated by two *Masters*, on the one part, and two Citizens on the other.

These halls were formerly very numerous;* but, after the foundation of colleges, endowed with fellowships and enriched with livings, they necessarily sank into neglect. Five only now remain, and one of these is destitute of students. The others still prosper; and three of them have been improved by benefactions. Each hall is governed by a principal, and by statutes originating with the Chancellor of the University. The principals are elected by the members, subject to the approvance of the chancellor †, or vice-chancellor, with the exception of the principal of St. Edmund's Hall, who is nominated by Queen's College. Their income arises from the rent of the chambers. The students possess all academical privileges in common with the students in colleges, and wear the same dress. The buildings are, in general, commodious, though not so conspicuous for beauty as to claim particular notice: and, from our following brief account, it will be seen that the halls of Oxford have produced many shining ornaments of society, even since the foundation of colleges has eclipsed their power of attraction.

ST. ALBAN'S HALL.

derives its name from Robert de Sancto Albano, a citizen of Oxford in the time of King John. In the reign of Henry VI. it was united to Nunne Hall; but the principal was appointed by Merton College. King Henry VIII. granted it to his physician, Dr. George Owen: by whom it was conveyed to Sir John Williams, afterwards Lord Williams, of Thame, and Sir John Gresham.

* Sir J. Peshall mentions above 200, and says, on the authority of Wood, "that many other halls, to the number of 300, or more, were here, but their names and places have been long since lost." The number of halls, in the reign of Edward I. is said by other writers to have been about 300.

† The Chancellor has the power of actually nominating these principals, but refrains from exercising that authority. He is visiter of all the halls.

[illegible]. After an intermediate transmission it was obtained by the Wardens and Fellows of Merton College, to whom the site still belongs.

Hooper, the martyred Bishop of Gloucester, and two other prelates, were educated here. Massinger, the poet, (inferior, perhaps, to no English dramatist but Shakspeare,) and Lenthal, Speaker during the long Parliament, were likewise of this hall.

EDMUND HALL,

traditionally so termed from St. Edmund, Archbishop of Canterbury, belonged to Oseney Abbey at the time of the Dissolution, and was then granted by Henry VIII. to certain individuals. It came into the possession of the Society of Queen's College in 1557; and was by them renewed as a place of study, on condition that they should have the privilege of nominating the principal. The buildings have been enlarged under the auspices of the college; and, in 1631, Dr. John Rawlinson, principal, bequeathed six pounds yearly, chiefly for the emolument of a catechetical lecturer. Dr. Thomlinson, sometime vice-principal, likewise left, in 1747, the sum of 200l.

Several prelates, among whom occurs the learned and ingenious Dr. Kennet, Bishop of Peterborough, were educated here. The following names likewise grace the scholastic list: John Oldham, the poet; Sir Richard Blackmore; Edward Chamberlaine, author of Angliæ Notitia, &c.; Humphrey Wanley; Thomas Hearne, the indefatigable antiquary; and Dr. John Mill, editor of the Greek Testament.

ST. MARY'S HALL

was given by a burgess of Oxford, in the reign of Henry III. to the rectors of St. Mary's Church, for a house of residence. It passed, with the patronage of that church, to Oriel College, and

was converted into an academical hall in 1333. The buildings are in a quadrangular form, and were improved at various periods of the last century.

Thomas Dyke, M. D. bestowed property, in 1677, for the assistance of four scholars, natives of Somersetshire; and Dr. Nowell, late principal, founded one exhibition.

Dr. William King, whose political opinions and satirical writings once attracted so much notice, was principal of St. Mary's Hall from 1719 to 1763. He directed his heart to be preserved in the chapel, and the remainder of his body to be buried in the church of Ealing, Middlesex. Sir Christopher Hatton, *Sir Thomas More*, George Sandys, the poet, and Needham the political writer, studied in this hall.

ST. MARY MAGDALEN HALL

is situated close to Magdalen College, and was built in 1480 by William of Waynfleet, as a grammar-school. The premises were enlarged, about the year 1518, by the Society of Magdalen College, and students were then admitted on the terms usual in other halls. The library contains many valuable books; in the refectory, is a portrait of Tyndall, who suffered martyrdom in the reign of Henry VIII.

A considerable number of exhibitions have been bestowed; and Dr. William Lucy, sometime a member of this hall, bequeathed 2000l. for the support of four scholars, to be elected from Hampton Lucy School, in Warwickshire.

Magdalen Hall claims many prelates, and the following distinguished characters of other classes: *Lord Clarendon*. Sir Henry Vane, in whom philosophy and fanaticism were so strangely blended. Sir Julius Cæsar, one of the most eminent civilians of his era. Sir Matthew Hale, whose judicial wisdom was rendered doubly valuable by his personal virtues. Dr. Sydenham, the celebrated physician. Edward Phillips, the biographer; and

Dr. Plot,* author of the Natural History of the counties of Oxford and Stafford.

NEW INN HALL.

A collection of tenements inhabited by Bernardine Monks formerly occupied the site of this hall. The premises descended to William of Wykeham, and were by him bestowed on the wardens and fellows of New College; from which circumstance of connexion they afterwards acquired the name of New Inn Hall. This house was once celebrated for the proficiency of its students in the civil and canon law, but fell into decay during the sixteenth century, and was used by Charles I. as an office for minting the plate presented to him by the University. After the Restoration it was renewed as a place of study, but has again sunk to neglect. No part of the edifice now remains but a house for the principal.

The most important PUBLIC BUILDINGS connected with the University are *the Schools; the Bodleian Library; the Theatre; the Clarendon Printing House; the Radcliffe Library; the Ashmolean Museum; the Observatory; the Physic Garden;* and *St. Mary's, or the University Church.*

The first *public schools* in the University were erected by Thomas Hokenorton, Abbot of Oseney, in the early part of the fifteenth century. Before that period each hall had its separate school; and many were attached to the various religious houses. The buildings constructed by the Abbot consisted of ten apartments, allotted to different branches of tuition. The divinity school was, likewise, begun early in the fifteenth century, and was completed, with a library in the upper division, in the year 1480, chiefly through the liberal assistance of Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester, usually styled the good. This school still remains, and is one of the richest pieces of Gothic architecture that has been preserved. The stone-roof is of exquisite workmanship,

* For a biographical notice of Dr. Plot, see Beauties of England, &c. for Kent. 693.

and was repaired, with careful respect of each particular of the original design, by Sir Christopher Wren. The buildings erected by the Abbot of Oseney were removed in the beginning of the 17th century, when the present edifice was erected.

The schools, including a part of the Bodleian library, and the picture gallery, form a splendid quadrangle. The principal front is a sedate, yet magnificent elevation, 175 feet in length, with a lofty square tower over the entrance. The ranges of building on the interior of the quadrangle are three stories high, having the picture gallery in the upper division. The top is ornamented by an embattled parapet, with jagged pinnacles at equal distances. The whole would be a fine specimen of Gothic sublimity, if the fantastical spirit of the period had not led the builder to place on the interior face of that noble tower which surmounts the gate of entrance, couplets of columns, which reach, in due succession, from base to pinnacle, expressive of the five classic orders. In the Corinthian compartment is introduced a statue of James I. on his throne, holding *his book* towards the Figure of Fame, who is represented in the act of sounding her trumpet! Over the royal statue are figures emblematic of Justice, Peace, and Plenty.

In these public schools the professors read lectures in the several sciences, and the scholars are enjoined by the University statutes to perform here the exercises requisite for their degrees. There are three masters of the schools, one of whom is nominated in convocation by the vice-chancellor, and one by each of the proctors. No master can hold the office for more than two successive years.

The *Bodleian, or public Library*, comprises three extensive rooms, disposed in the form of the Roman H. This most noble institution was founded by Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester, who presented many works finely written on vellum, and richly illuminated. The visitors, acting by authority of Edward VI. stripped the library of these valuable books, and only one has been preserved as a specimen of the collection. This is a manuscript, in folio

life of Valerius Maximus, elegantly decorated. The library remained thus unfurnished, and in entire neglect, till Sir Thomas Bodley, in the year 1597, effected its restoration, with noble zeal and unbounded generosity. This illustrious friend of literature was born in Exeter, and received the rudiments of education in Geneva, whither his family retired to avoid the persecuting temper of Queen Mary's reign. He returned to England in 1559, and entered of Magdalen College, Oxford. He was afterwards admitted a fellow of Merton, in the hall of which college he read a Greek Lecture. At a subsequent period he was elected one of the proctors, and was, for some time, public orator of the University. His talents were adapted to the most spacious theatre of action: in 1576, he visited the continent, and attained to competent a knowledge of the politics of foreign courts that he was employed in various embassies by Queen Elizabeth. Some disgust, however, arose; and, in 1597, he retired from public life. It was in the first year of his leisure that he commenced the inestimable task of restoring the public library. His first benefaction consisted of books, chiefly purchased on the continent, to the value of 10,000l. He, likewise, stimulated others to contribution, and the increase was shortly so considerable, that the original room was no longer sufficiently capacious. He then commenced an augmentation of the building, and his liberality was so great, and his example productive of so much emulative benefaction, that the University was enabled to extend the design, and to construct the present quadrangle, uniting apartments for the schools with a noble receptacle for the books dedicated to public use. It is to be regretted that Bodley did not live to see the whole completed. He died January 28, 1612, and was interred, with great pomp, in the chapel of Merton College.

Sir Thomas Bodley drew up statutes for the regulation of the library, and left an estate for the provision of officers, and other uses of the building. The library was opened to the public in 1602; and, since that period, the augmentations have been so considerable, that it probably now contains the most valuable collection

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tion in Europe. The contributors are so numerous, and so high in consequence, that it is scarcely possible, in a general work, to convey an idea of the literary treasures here reposited. We must be contented with observing, that among those who have presented collections of books and manuscripts, are, Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex; Thomas Sackville, Lord Buckhurst; Lord Sidney of Penshurst; George Carey; Lord Hunsdon; Sir John Fortescue; Alexander Nowell, Dean of St. Paul's; Mr. Selden; Archbishop Laud; Sir Kenelm Digby; Dr. Barlow; Dr. Rawlinson; Dr. Tanner; T. Hearne; Mr. Godwin, and Mr. Gough *.

Several catalogues, both of the printed books and manuscripts, have been published †; and there are some MS. additions kept in the library; but the increase of works is so great that neither of these is of a satisfactory nature.

According to the statutes formed by Sir Thomas Bodley, the librarian, is to be a graduate, "unmarried, and, without cure of souls, and to be allowed deputies, or assistants." Several men of conspicuous learning have filled the office of principal librarian. Since the year 1780, an annual sum, of not less than 400l. has been obtained for the purchase of additional books, by a trifling increase of the matriculation fees, and by an equally moderate contribution from such members of the University as use the library. A small sum is, likewise, contributed on taking a first degree. An annual speech in praise of Sir Thomas Bodley, founded in 1681, by Dr. Morris, Canon of Christ Church, is delivered when the vice-chancellor, the proctors, &c. perform a visitation of the library, in obedience to the statutes.

The *Picture Gallery* occupies the upper range of three sides of the quadrangle. The ceiling is of oak, divided into small square compartments, in each of which are painted the University arms, and

* Mr. Gough contributed the whole of his topographical collections, books, prints, and drawings. These are now arranging with much care for public inspection.

† The last, in two volumes *folio*, 1738.

and on a shield at each angle of the square those of the founder. Nearly in the centre of the gallery is a statue in brass, by Le Seur, of William, Earl of Pembroke, chancellor of the University. The gallery contains portraits of all the founders of colleges*, and of numerous celebrated persons otherwise connected with the University, or deserving of admiration as scholars, besides other interesting pieces. Among the portraits are those of Sir T. Bodley, an original by Cornelius Jansen; Archbishop Sheldon; Sir Henry Savile; Sir Kenelm Digby, whose fine proportions of person were justly expressive of his mental capacity; Grotius; Casaubon; Sir T. More; Selden; Butler, the poet, by Lely; Prior by Richardson; Locke by Gibson; and a curious picture of Lord Burleigh, in his Parliamentary robes, riding on a mule. There are, likewise, copies of the Cartoons; and a fine copy, supposed by Julio Romano,† from Raphael's celebrated school of Athens, in the Vatican. Some cases of books and manuscripts, forming a continuation of the Bodleian, occupy a part of this extensive gallery.

In the logic and moral philosophy school is preserved a collection of statues, marbles, and busts, comprising 135 articles, presented to the University by the Countess Dowager of Pomfret, in 1755; and, in an apartment on the north side of the schools, are ranged the *Arundelian Marbles*. This antiquarian treasure, which may be said to form the most authentic History of Greece, was collected by Thomas Howard, Earl of Arundel, and given to the University by his grandson, Henry, Duke of Norfolk. The noble collector was one of the most accomplished scholars of the seventeenth century. Disgusted with the prevailing politics, he devoted his time to literature and the arts. Anxious to introduce the elegance of the ancients to his native country, he sent Sir William Petty to Asia, in quest of monuments. By Petty the chief parts of the present collection were purchased of a Turk, who

* Many of these portraits are imaginary. The whole were painted by Sanman.

† Julio (or *Guilo*) Romano died in 1546. This copy certainly appears more modern.

who had taken them from an agent of the famous Peiresk. When the Earl retired to Italy, in 1641, the monuments procured with so much effort were left at his London residence, Arundel House in the Strand, and many of them were stolen, and others were cut up by masons, and worked into houses! * When Henry, Duke of Norfolk, pulled down Arundel House, he presented, at the instigation of John Evelyn, Esq. of Baliol College, the remainder, about 130 in number, to the University of Oxford. The collection made by Selden, and that of Sir George Wheeler (chiefly formed by himself at Athens) together with many curious relics, purchased by the University of merchants who brought them over, have since been added †.

The Theatre was one of the first works of Sir Christopher Wren, and was built at the entire expense of Archbishop Sheldon, who likewise gave the sum of 2000l. for the purpose of repairs. The foundation-stone was laid in 1664, and the building was completed in about five years. The ground plan is that of the theatre of Marcellus at Rome. It is evident that the architect very properly laboured for interior accommodation, rather than outward effect. He has attained his chief object with peculiar felicity; and, in the supplementary particular of exterior adornment, he has scarcely been less successful. The side opposite to the divinity school is a fine elevation, embellished with Corinthian columns, and the statues, in niches, of Archbishop Sheldon, and the Duke of Ormond, chancellor, executed by Sir Henry Cheere. The interior is so judiciously arranged, that, although the dimensions appear to be insufficient for that purpose, it is calculated to contain nearly four thousand persons. The roof is eighty feet by seventy, and rests entirely on the side walls ‡. The

* Gough's British Topography, &c.

† The statues belonging to the Pomfret Collection, and the most interesting relics collected by Sir George Wheeler, &c. have been engraved by Millar, at the expense of the University, in the "Marmora Oxoniensia."

‡ The old roof, once so much admired, was found, in 1800, to be in danger of falling. The present roof was then constructed, nearly on the original plan.

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FLORENTINE PRINTING HOUSE AND THE THEATRE.

The ceiling is elaborately painted by Streater, and as equally [illegible] scription of it may be seen in Plot's Natural History. In allusion to the ancient theatres of Greece and Rome, which were too extensive to admit of a permanent roofing, the painter has introduced an intersected cord-moulding, affecting to support a spread of coloured drapery, which Genii are "furling up," to make way for the descent of the arts and sciences, to whom truth approaches, a guest desired by them all. Various other Genii proclaim the triumph of this festival, and drive envy, rapine, and brutality, the great enemies of art and science, from the happy assemblage. Besides this pictorial labour three portraits ornament this place; those of Archbishop Sheldon, the Duke of Ormond, and Sir Christopher Wren.

In the theatre are held the acts termed the Encœnia and Comitia, and Lord Crewe's annual commemoration of benefactors. Before the Clarendon Press was established, some rooms connected with the theatre were used for printing; a circumstance which accounts for the frequent representation of this building in the title page of books, printed at Oxford, towards the close of the seventeenth century. The care of the structure is reposed in two persons, termed curators, who are elected by convocation.

The Clarendon Printing House was built in the year 1711, with the profits arising from Lord Clarendon's History of the Rebellion, which work was presented to the University by the son of the noble author. It is a massy edifice, two stories high, and 115 feet in length. In front is a Doric portico, the columns of which reach to the height of the second story. On the opposite side is a range of three quarter columns; and a Doric entablature ornaments the whole of the building. On the top are casts in lead of the nine Muses; over the south entrance is placed a good statue of Lord Clarendon. Vanburgh was the architect employed in this building. Besides the rooms used for printing, there is a large apartment in which the heads of houses hold meetings.

meetings. The business of the printing House is superintended by persons termed delegates of the press, who are appointed by the vice-chancellor and the proctors *.

The Radcliffe Library is situated in an area in some shape favourable to architectural effort, since all objects of a mean or unpleasing character are excluded from view. The four sides are occupied by St. Mary's Church, a part of All Soul's College, the schools, and the great front of Brasen-nose College. This library was founded by the eccentric, but skilful and benevolent physician, Dr. Radcliffe, who bequeathed the sum of 40,000l. for its erection, and likewise left 150l. *per annum* for a librarian, and 100l. *per annum* for the purchase of books. Gibbs was the architect appointed; by whom the building was begun in 1737, and completed in 1749.

The rustic basement of the edifice, 100 feet in diameter, is in the form of a double octagon, or sixteen square, seven of which squares are ornamented with a pediment, and worked into gateways leading to an arcade, in the centre of which is a capacious dome. From this basement proceeds a cylindrical superstructure, adorned with three quarter Corinthian columns, ranged in couplets. Between these couplets are constructed alternately windows and niches, the latter surmounted by festoons of fruit and flowers. Over the entablature is a balustrade, finished with vases on the piers perpendicular with the columns. A cupola, sixty feet high, completes the elevation.

The embellishments of the interior were executed by the first artists which the age produced. The dome is wrought into compartments of beautiful stucco; and between the windows in the cylindric part, from which the light is chiefly obtained, are highly-

* Ames dates the first book printed at Oxford, 1478, (seven years after Caxton's first work,) but other writers assert that Corsellis printed here, as early as 1468. The business of printing was in the hands of persons unconnected with the University, till 1672, when Bishop Fell, and other distinguished members, undertook the management of a regular University press.

highly-finished tresses of flowers and fruit. Over the door is a statue of Dr. Radcliffe, by Rysbrach, and one of the gallery-entrances is ornamented with a bust of the architect.

The Radcliffe library assuredly ranks among the most splendid ornaments of the University, in an architectural point of view; but the superior attractions of the Bodleian seem likely to engross the contributions of the learned. We have not the opportunity of recording any important offering of books, except that made by Gibbs, the architect, who bequeathed his valuable collection, and the whole of his prints and drawings.

Dr. Radcliffe, the beneficent founder of this structure, was admitted a batteler of University College, in 1665, and was afterwards made senior scholar. No fellowship speedily occurring, he removed to Lincoln College, where he applied to the study of physic, and took his doctor's degree in 1682. He practised for some time at Oxford, and his success is said to have been equal to his merit. But, anxious to enlarge the sphere of exertion, he removed to London, and quickly obtained so much notoriety that he was chosen to attend the royal family during the reigns of King William and Queen Anne. The facility with which he afterwards amassed a considerable fortune may be readily apprehended. Dr. Radcliffe had no family; and, after providing for his sisters and nephews, he dedicated his property to the uses of that University which had engrossed his early affections. After the construction of the library, and the fulfilment of his other benefactions, a large surplus remained in the hands of the trustees, which it will be seen from an ensuing page they have applied to purposes equally dear to science and to feeling.

The Ashmolean Museum was founded in the year 1682, for the reception of rare productions, both natural and artificial, by Elias Ashmole, author of the History of the Garter; a man of universal curiosity, if not of deep general learning. The building was erected by Sir Christopher Wren, at the expense of the University, and is conspicuously well-adapted to the use for which

which it was designed. The proportions are admirable, and the eastern end is adorned with a fine portico of the Corinthian order, and with emblematical devices allusive to the destination of the structure. The ornaments are abundant, yet not one could be spared without injury to the harmony of the whole.

The curiosities presented by Ashmole, and which the University deemed entitled to so costly a receptacle, consisted chiefly of the collection originally made by the two Tradescants, the celebrated naturalists and physic gardeners of South Lambeth. To these he added coins, medals, and manuscripts, collected by himself, and he bequeathed to the institution the whole of his library. Large additions have been made at various periods by numerous contributors, particularly by Dr. Plot and Edward Llwyd (the first keepers of the Museum;) by Mr. Borlase, the historian of Cornwall; and by Mr. Reinhold Foster. The latter contribution consists of curious articles from the South Sea Islands. In this building are likewise preserved the books which formerly belonged to Dr. Lister, and the manuscripts* of Sir William Dugdale, John Aubrey, and Antony Wood. There are also some paintings.

The Astronomical Observatory is an elegant building, in a calm and retired situation, at the extremity of the north suburb. The very appropriate site of this erection, and the spacious grounds attached, were presented by his *Grace*, the Duke of Marlborough; the expense of the building, (nearly 30,000l.) was defrayed by the trustees acting under the will of *Dr. Radcliffe*. The central elevation of the observatory is upwards of 100 feet. The third story consists of an octangular tower, with sculptures of the eight winds on the entablature, and a ponderous earth-coloured globe at the top, sustained, with seeming difficulty, by two straining figures. The building is provided with a library, a lecture

* The whole of the MSS. contained in the apartments belonging to the Museum are not less in number than 620, the greater part of which relates to English History and Antiquities.

a lecture room, and an extremely valuable set of astronomical instruments.

The *Physic Garden* is an acquisition for which the University is indebted to Henry Danvers, Earl of Danby, who procured a lease of the ground from Magdalen College, in 1622. The gardens are opposite to Magdalen, on the south, and comprise about five acres. The whole premises are encompassed by a wall, and the entrance is through a handsome gateway, designed by Inigo Jones, and executed by Nicholas Stone, senior. Over the arch of the gateway is a bust of the founder; and on the right and left are statues of Charles I. and II. *. The garden is arranged in four quarters, and is provided with suitable greenhouses, and a hot-house. The plants, &c. are equally numerous and estimable. The first keeper was appointed in 1669, with an annual stipend of forty pounds. In the year 1728 Dr. Sherard, who had likewise bestowed a number of rare exotics, left 3000l. as the endowment of a professor in botany; and, in 1793, his present Majesty graciously founded a regius professorship in the same science.

St. Mary's Church requires to be noticed in this place, as the church in which the chief members of the University attend Divine Service, except on some particular days when the sermons are appointed to be preached at St. Peter's in the East, or in certain colleges. The public preachers are ten in number, of whom five go out of office every year. St. Mary's is situate on the north of the High Street, and is a beautiful Gothic structure, consisting of three aisles, and a spacious chancel, built, nearly as it now appears, in 1498. The tower is square, with two graduated buttresses at each angle, on every face of which is a statue

 in

* The expense of these statues was partly defrayed with a fine (34l.) paid by Antony Wood for a libel on Lord Clarendon. Wood, who is known "neither to have spared friend or foe," accused the chancellor of bribery and corruption. The greatest indignation was excited at Oxford by this charge. Wood's book was publicly burned in the theatre yard, and he was condemned to be expelled as a disturber of the peace.

in a canopied niche. From behind these spring pinnacles, finely proportioned, and richly ornamented. A taper spire surmounts the whole; the entire elevation being 180 feet. The front towards the High Street is in the best style of Henry VII.'s reign; but the effect has been much injured by a porch, with heavy twisted columns, erected in 1637, by Dr. Owen, chaplain to Archbishop Laud *. When the members of the University attend Divine Service in this church, the vice-chancellor sits on a throne elevated some few steps above the west end of the middle aisle. The two proctors take place a little below; the heads of houses and doctors sit on either hand; below whom are ranged the noblemen-students. The masters of arts occupy benches in the area. The bachelors, and under-graduates, have seats in contiguous galleries. A room on the north side of the chancel is used as the common law-school, and here the vinerian professor reads lectures.

The city of Oxford, including the suburbs, is about one mile and a quarter from east to west, and is nearly of the same extent from north to south. The city, properly so called, and which was encompassed by a wall, is of an oblong form, and not more than two miles in circumference. Although so much has been said concerning the probable consequence of the place in the early British, and succeeding Roman ages, we do not find that any coins, or relics, of peculiar interest, have been discovered. The existing features of the city afford a more satisfactory theme than conjectures respecting its early importance.

There are two principal streets in Oxford, which run from east to west, and from north to south. The first of these loses the name of High Street when it reaches *Quatrevois*, or Cárfax Church, and loses also its expansive width and splendour of collegiate embellishment. The second has the church of St. Giles near

* Over the porch is a statue of the Virgin, with the infant Christ in her arms. The fanatics were so much offended by the archbishop suffering his chaplain to erect this stature that they made the circumstances one of the articles of his impeachment.

near its commencement on the north, and is, for some distance, of an unusual width and most pleasing character. It contracts into crowd and inelegance before it reaches Carfax; but then again attains an airiness of width, and gains fresh importance from the respectable front of the Town Hall, and the magnificent fabric of Christ Church. Several of the minor streets, which diverge from these intersecting ways, remind the beholder of the periods in which the limit of fortified walls compelled the inhabitants to press their tenements close together, even though epidemy was likely to be the consequence of their want of room. A street of fair proportions, however, runs nearly parallel with the High Street on the north. The buildings of Oxford possess three distinctions of character. The ancient houses constructed for the use of traders are built in an irregular and incommodious manner, and are formed of the most fragile materials, though large quarries of stone were close at hand. The mansions built as lodgings for students before a residence in college became general, or as abodes of the gentry while the court occasionally resorted to Oxford, are still frequent; and these are formed of stone, and designed on an extensive scale. The buildings of comparatively recent periods are numerous, and are invariably solid, commodious, and eligible. The houses most desirable for private residence are situate in St. Giles's. An agreeable air of retirement pervades this street*, and many of the buildings are capacious and detached.

The period at which Oxford was first encompassed by *a wall* cannot be ascertained; but the transcript of Domesday, inserted in a former page, proves that the city possessed such a mean of defence in the reign of Edward the Confessor. The walls were

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* The neighbourhood of the church dedicated to St. Giles will usually be the most reclase district. St. Giles avoided all high places, and comforted the sorrowful, and endeavoured to heal the sick, on the most remote spot he could find. Hence the church erected in honour of this saint is always placed at the extremity of a town, or city.

much damaged by King Stephen, when he laid siege to the city, and were in so ruinous a condition in the time of Henry III. that the king granted to the mayor and burgesses, "for the help of repairing their wall, as also for the greater security of the country hereabout, that once every week, for three years' space, they should receive a halfpenny of every leaded cart that brought wares to sell here, and of any cart of another country a penny; and granted them summage; that is, every horse loaded with wares, (except bushes, hay, or the like,) a farthing. And, also, of every horse or mare, ox or cow, brought here to be sold, a halfpenny; for ten sheep, goats, or hogs, a penny." The walls were again repaired in the reign of Richard II. in consequence of a brief from the king, addressed to the mayor and burgesses, in which he says, "that the walls, with the towers thereof, anciently kept firm and whole, were now become so weak and ruinous, and also the ditch, or moat, of old so broad and deep, so stopped up, that if his enemies in France should invade England it would put his person to great hazard, unless a quick remedy was found to repair them." The expense of the reparation was defrayed by a tax levied indiscriminately on all persons, religious as well as secular, residing within the city. This was the last regular repair which took place. When the city was put in a state of defence by Charles I. temporary fortifications were constructed, to atone for the chasms in the ancient line of mural embattlements. The wall was lofty and massive, with towers, or turrets, at the most assailable points; and was, in some places, constructed on arches. There were, originally, five gates, besides posterns. The chief of these had two round towers of defence on each side, and that on the north, called Bocardo, was machicolated. In the tranquil eras which led to a neglect of the wall as a fortified barrier, the remaining towers, or turrets, were tenanted by the lower order of citizens; and, in some instances, when they approximated to halls of study, were used as lodgings for scholars. The principal parts of the wall still

still remaining are attached to Merton and New Colleges. Various traces of the lines of fortification drawn by Charles I. are discoverable in several districts.

The city of Oxford is divided into four wards, and consists, with its suburbs, of fourteen parishes:—All Saints, Carfax, or St. Martin's. St. Clement's. St. Ebbs. St. Giles's, Holywell. St. John's. St. Mary Magdalen's. St. Mary's. St. Michael's. St. Peter's in the East. St. Peter's in the Bailey. St. Aldate's, or St Old's, and St. Thomas's.

The Church of St. Mary's has been already noticed. That dedicated to "All Saints" is, likewise, situated in the High Street, but is a structure of a very different character. The church, which had for many ages occupied this site, fell down in 1699, and the present edifice was speedily erected, under the guiding talent of Dr. Aldrich, Dean of Christ Church, whose architectural taste was so creditably displayed in the buildings of Peckwater Square. This church is a fine building, in the style of sacred architecture which Sir Christopher Wren assisted in rendering popular. There are two ranges of windows, with duplicated Corinthian pilasters between those of the lower tier, and a stone balustrade at the top. The tower is rustic, and supports a turret encircled by Corinthian pillars, from which proceeds a handsome spire. The interior is seventy-two feet long, forty-two wide, and fifty high, and comprises a nave, chancel, and two aisles. There is no pillar within the walls, but pilasters of the Corinthian order are plentifully introduced. Under the direction of Dr. Aldrich the ceiling was ornamented with fretwork, and with double rows of painted arms appertaining to the various benefactors.

St. Peter's in the East is, in part, an interesting specimen of Saxon architecture, and is believed to have been originally built by St. Grimbald, one of the first professors under the patronage of the great Alfred. The building is composed of freestone *, and

* It is said that a building of stone was so entire a novelty in the neighbourhood

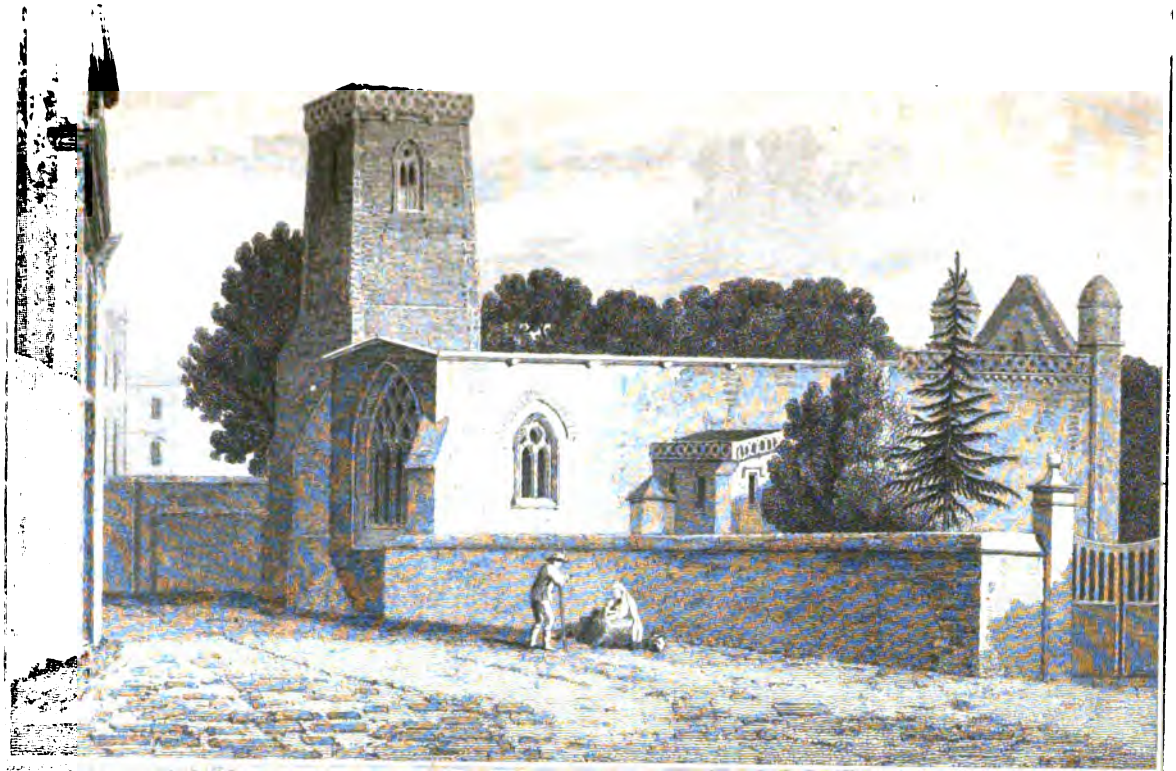
and has a nave and side aisle, with a chancel, abutting on which is another aisle that extends to the north. The length, exclusive of the chancel, is about seventy-six feet, and the width forty-two. The chancel is thirty-nine feet in length. At the west end is a square tower, having on each side a small pointed window, not glazed. The part towards the east is the only remain of the Saxon fabric. The other divisions are evidently of a more recent date, and are supposed by Hearne to have been rebuilt in the reign of Henry V. In the centre of the eastern end is a pediment, and at each corner is a turret, rounded towards the top, and capped with a conical roofing of stone-work. The chief window is pointed, and more modern than the wall in which it is inserted; but, on the south, are a window and several small pillars and mouldings, completely Saxon. On the other side, likewise, may be seen part of a large Saxon window, the greater proportion of which is hidden by a tasteless mass of stone and mortar appropriated to the uses of a vestry room.

The chancel contains two fine clusters of Saxon columns, and a window untouched by the hand of innovation, on one side of which is a plain pillar, and on the other a pillar carved to the height of Saxon taste. The window obscured on the outer part here displays its original form, and has a plain pillar on either side.

The furniture of the church does not possess any claim to magnificence. The font is embowered in a representation of the forbidden tree, supported by two unattired figures, intended for Adam and Eve. In a window on the north is a fanciful symbol of the Trinity.

Beneath the chancel is a crypt in excellent preservation, the arches of which are supported by four ranges of short Saxon pillars. In a vault under this chancel St. Grimbald intended his remains to be placed; but, when the dispute arose between himself and the scholars, he indignantly removed his monumental preparations to

bourhood when this church was erected, that people flocked to view it as a prodigy of art.



St PETER'S IN THE EAST,
Oxford.

to Winchester. Under a stone in the churchyard lies Thomas Hearne. The humble memorial which marks the grave of this laborious antiquary was piously repaired in 1754, by Dr. Rawlinson *.

St. Peter's was originally the University church, and the vice-chancellor, heads of houses, &c. still attend service here in the afternoon of the Sundays in Lent †.

The other parochial churches of Oxford have little claim to architectural beauty, and have no attendant circumstances of peculiar interest. Carfax, or St. Martin's, is descended by several steps, and is composed of a nave, two narrow aisles, and a chancel. Over the west end is a tower, formerly more lofty, but reduced to its present dimensions in the reign of Edward III. in consequence of a complaint made by the scholars that the townsmen would retire thither "in time of combat," and annoy them with stones and arrows, as from a castle. There is no record of the foundation of this church. The tutelar saint was Bishop of *Tours*, and died *anno* 399.

St. Clement's is a small church in the eastern suburb, consisting of one aisle and a chancel. Over the west end is a low tower, capped with tiles.

The church of St. Ebbs was dedicated to the memory of *Ebba*, daughter of Ethelfrid, King of Northumberland, who died in 683. The building contains a nave, north aisle, and chancel.

St. Giles's was erected in the twelfth century, on the site, as some writers suppose, of "an ancient British temple," and contains a nave, chancel, and two aisles. The south aisle opens to a chapel, founded by one of the Fitzwarrens of Walton, and dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin. At the west end is an embattled tower.

* The following notice of Hearne's burial occurs in the parish register:—Thomas Hearn, of Edmund Hall (*Scriptor egregius*) June 16, 1735.

† The fellows of Corpus Christi College are obliged by their statutes to preach a sermon during this season, either in this church, or *at St. Paul's Cross*, before they are admitted to the degree of bachelor in divinity.

Holywell is a chapel, dedicated to the holy cross, and appertaining to St. Peter's in the East. This chapel consists of one aisle and a chancel, together with an attached chantry dedicated to the Virgin Mary. The structure is believed to have been erected by *Robert de Oilgi*, the Norman governor of Oxford, appointed by the Conqueror. Dr. Plot conjectures that a Roman road crossed the Charwell, in the vicinity of this church, or chapel.

St. John's church has been noticed in our account of Merton College. St. Mary Magdalen's is divided into a nave, two aisles, and a chancel. On the south is a chantry, built originally by Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln, in 1194; but renewed by King Edward III. and dedicated to the Holy Virgin, whose statue formerly stood here on a pedestal. On the north side is another chantry, supposed to have been built by Dervorgille, the foundress of Balliol College. Over the west end of the church rises an embattled tower.

St. Michael's originally belonged to the canons of St. Frideswide, and was united to All Saint's Church by the Bishop of Lincoln, in 1429, when he made that edifice collegiate. It is now a curacy, incorporated into one collegiate church with the College of Lincoln. The tower of St. Michael's is very ancient, and appears to be rapidly sinking under the influence of time. The other parts of the church have been more recently constructed. The building is composed of a nave, chancel, and two aisles.

On the site of St. Peter's in the Bailey stood a very ancient structure, which fell down in 1726. The present church was opened in the year 1740, and is a respectable stone building. The nave is spacious, and has an aisle on each side. A gallery has been added by the benefaction of Daniel Flexney, a carpenter, and the internal decorations are of a suitable and unassuming character.

St. Aldate's * is often, by a strange perversion of terms, called St.

* Aldate is a British saint of the fifth century.

Engraved by Wm. Bond & Drawing by J.P. Neale.

By the Societies of England & Wales.

SAINT MARY MAGDALEN'S CHURCH,
Oxford.

St. *Olds!* The first church erected on this spot was of wood, and is supposed to have been constructed by the Britons, before the era of Saxon sway. The edifice was afterwards refounded, and used as a cloister to receive persons training for the priory of St. Frideswide and Abingdon Abbey. The present church is an irregular structure, composed at various periods.

The church of St. Thomas was founded in 1141, by the canons of Osney, and was first dedicated to St. Nicholas, but afterwards acquired its present appellation from Thomas à Becket. The building consists of one aisle and a chancel. Over the west end is an embattled tower.

The city of Oxford is well paved, and very considerable improvements have been effected in various parts, in consequence of an Act of Parliament obtained in 1771. Magdalen Bridge, or that over which the town is entered from the east, is an elegant stone building, 526 feet in length, built in 1779, at the expense of eight thousand pounds. The bridge over the Isis in the western suburb consists of three substantial arches; and, on the south, is another bridge over the same river, on which stood, till lately, a lofty tower, popularly termed Friar Bacon's Study. This was evidently designed for a watch-tower, and is supposed to have been built in the reign of Stephen. It is, however, probable, that Bacon was frequently in the habit of ascending this venerable elevation, for the purpose of making astronomical remarks.

The *Town* and *County Hall* is a spacious stone building, with a range of rustic work in the lower division of the front, and a pediment over the centre. The whole space beneath the hall is an open corridore. Annexed to the chief part of the building are various rooms for the use of the corporation, and for the office of the town-clerk, &c. This edifice was completed in 1752, principally at the expense of Thomas Rowney, Esq. late representative in Parliament, and high steward of the city. In one of the rooms are preserved some good portraits.

In Holywell Street is a handsome stone edifice, termed the *Music*

room. This building is not very large, but contains an orchestra, with rows of seats for the auditory, rising gradually from the floor. The front is plain, but well proportioned; and the whole structure does credit to Dr. Camplin, (sometime vice-principal of St. Edmund Hall,) from whose design it was erected. This room was built by subscription, and was opened in 1748; but the finances are far from being in a flourishing condition.

The *Radcliffe Infirmary* is a large and respectable stone building, well suited to its purpose, and calculated to hold a considerable number of patients. Never could money be more properly applied than that appropriated by the trustees acting under the will of Dr. Radcliffe, to the foundation of this charitable pile. By so disposing of a part of the great residue in their hands they at once aided the cause of humanity, advanced the dissemination of useful knowledge, and entailed a blessing on the memory of the generous physician, whose purse, during life, was never closed when poverty was seen to corrode the pangs of sickness. The trustees entirely built and furnished the infirmary *; the current expenses are defrayed by voluntary contributions. A subscription of 3l. 3s. *per annum*, or a contribution of thirty guineas, or more, at one time, entitles a person to the rank of governor. In the year 1811, the number of patients who received assistance was 613, of which seventy-four were accidents, admitted without recommendation.

About a quarter of a mile to the south-west of the infirmary is a house of industry, built to receive the poor of eleven parishes.

Besides this building, and the Radcliffe, or public infirmary, the following are the most important charitable institutions: At the extremity of the eastern suburb, on the road leading to Headington, is a neat and commodious range of alms-houses, founded by Cutler Boulter, Esq. for six poor single men, of six different counties, in which the donor possessed estates. Each has a separate

* The site and attached grounds comprise five acres, presented by Thomas Rowney, Esq.

separate tenement and is allowed eight shillings per week, with liberty to work if willing and able.

Opposite to Boulter's alms-houses is a building founded for eight poor women, by the Rev. William Stone. Each almswoman receives twelve pounds *per annum*, besides the place of habitation, and some other advantages.

In 1659, John Nixon, Esq. formerly an alderman of Oxford, erected a school for the sons of freemen, and endowed it with thirty pounds annually for ever. The building which is small, but neat, is situate in a yard, or court, adjacent to the town-hall.

The University supports a school for fifty-four boys, termed the Grey Coat Charity. The boys are provided with a dress, are plainly educated, and placed as apprentices.

A school for about forty boys is maintained by contributions from the chief inhabitants of the city. Each boy is clothed, and has ten pounds bestowed on him as an apprentice fee.

The ladies of Oxford support at school about thirty girls, who are afterwards either apprenticed, or carefully placed for a term in domestic servitude.

The Roman Catholics, the Quakers, the Methodists, and the Baptists, have each a place of worship in the city; but it does not appear that Dissenters from the established church are very numerous, either in Oxford or its immediate vicinity.

The number of religious houses in Oxford, prior to the Reformation, was nineteen: St. Frideswida's, St. George's College, Osney Abbey, Rewley Abbey, St. Bernard's College, Canterbury College, Durham College, Gloucester Hall, London College, St. Mary's College, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, St. John's Hospital, Austin Friars, Black Friars, Grey Friars, White Friars, Crouched Friars, Friars de Sacco, Trinity House. We have already observed that several of these religious institutions fell to decay before the general Dissolution, and were lost in collegiate establishments. Scarcely any of the buildings appertaining to this class have been preserved, except small portions

of

of Gloucester Hall and Durham College. The present cathedral church is likely to remain for ages, an interesting specimen of the former importance of the priory dedicated to St. Frideswida. The following are the most interesting fragments of the houses dissolved by Henry VIII. In the western suburbs are some mutilated relics of Rewley Abbey;* and, on the side opposite to New Inn Hall, near St. Peter's in the Bailey, is a gateway, formerly attached to St. Mary's College,† the building in which Erasmus studied during the years 1497 and 1498.

The palace of Beaumont, built by Henry I. and finished in 1128, stood on the west side of the city. A small low fragment, which appears to have formed a part of one of the subordinate divisions, but which is termed, by vulgar tradition, the room in which King Richard I. was born, still remains. This palace was given to the Carmelite Friars by Edward II. in consequence of a religious vow; but was occasionally visited by many succeeding kings. At the Dissolution the whole was pulled down, except the hall, the materials of which were afterwards used by Archbishop Laud in his addition to St. John's College.

The town and county Gaol is a spacious stone building, with separate lodgings and yards of exercise for the debtors and felons. From the frequent alterations which take place, it would appear that there were some defects of judgment in the original design; but, certainly, much more architectural *taste* is here displayed than is usual with structures devoted to a similar gloomy purpose. The buildings are arranged in imitation of Gothic castellated towers; and the principal entrance is between two low embattled turrets. This gaol is erected on the site of the castle built in the reign of William I. by Robert de Oilgi, and which contained, besides the customary appendages of a castle of government, a church, or chapel, and accommodations for students. The Norman

* Rewley Abbey was founded about 1280, by Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, son of Richard, (second son of King John,) King of the Romans.

† St. Mary's College was founded in 1435, for student canons of the order of St. Austin.

man castle* was built with prodigious strength, and occupied a large extent of ground. After surrendering to King Stephen, the fortress was constituted a royal ward. The dungeons of the ancient castle were first granted, as prisons, to the University and the county at large, by Henry III. The whole buildings were repaired, and put in a posture of defence, by Charles I. "The stately towers," says Peshall, "were standing till Colonel Ingoldsby, the governor's time, in 1649, when the castle being designed by the Parliament for a garrison after the city works were slighted and decayed, they were all, being four in number, besides that on the gate, pulled down, and bulwarks on the mount erected in their places; yet, though the said bulwarks, with other edifices, were above a year finishing, and cost many hundred pounds, when Charles II. came from Worcester here, in August, 1652, they were, in four days' space, quite pulled down and demolished." The only remains now to be seen of D'Oilgi's massive structure, are the mount, a crypt, and the shell of one tower. The tower is square, and lighted only by a few loop holes. A narrow stone stair-case winds up a projecting turret at one of the angles.

The City Bridewell is situated in an extensive area, and is a substantial and well-arranged building, finished in 1789. Before that period, the offenders within the jurisdiction of the mayor of Oxford were placed in a prison over the north-gate, called Bocardo. In that dreary gaol were confined the martyrs, Cranmer, Ridley, and Latimer; and thence they were led to the mournful triumph of the stake. When the Bocardo was pulled down,

* Mr. King, in his "Vestiges of Oxford Castle," supposes that a Saxon castle was built on this spot long before the Norman invasion. He chiefly supports his opinion by observing, that, though several of the Saxon monarchs are known to have held their court at Oxford, there is not any mention, in the survey taken by order of the Conqueror, of "the remains of any other palace, or place of royal residence, that they could possibly have dwelt in." Mr. King likewise observes, that some Saxon remains have been discovered by digging within the castle area.

down, in consequence of the act obtained for improving the city, Mr. Alderman Fletcher, whose reverence for all vestiges, connected with the history of the city and University, has often been displayed, procured the door said to have led to the cell of the bishops' confinement, and caused it to be preserved in the new Bridewell. It is placed in a small room which forms an entrance to the prison. The massive iron hinges, and ponderous key, cause the spectator to shudder, while he remembers that they once presented an impassable barrier to talent, piety, and old age.*

The general Market is a commodious range of buildings, erected under that act of Parliament which has led to the chief recent improvements of the city, and was opened in 1774. There are three divisions for the different classes of purveyors: the first, which has three approaches from the north side of the High-street, is occupied entirely by butchers. The second is provided with stalls for the venders of poultry, bacon, &c. and the third partition is allotted to the sale of vegetables and fruit. An arcade, with ranges of shops, proceeds along the whole of the outside; and the interior of the market is aired by three avenues across, and one up the centre. Provisions, excellent in their respective kinds, are supplied in abundance. By royal grant to the University,

* From Strype's Memoirs of Archbishop Cranmer we find that the three martyrs were confined in separate lodgings, but were suffered sometimes to eat together while in the Bocardo. The same writer gives extracts from a book of their diet; and it appears that they partook, both at dinner and supper, of several dishes, and regularly drank wine. The mention of such circumstances will not be deemed trivial, when it is recollected that they argue the existence of a constant serenity of mind. "In October, 1555, Ridley and Latimer were brought forth to their burning, and, passing by Cranmer's prison, Ridley looked up to have seen him, but he was not then at the window, being engaged in a dispute with a Spanish friar. But he looked after them, and, devoutly falling on his knees, prayed to God to strengthen their faith and patience in that their last, but painful, passage." The dignity of Cranmer's behaviour, when the same dismal hour occurred to himself, enforced the admiration even of his enemies.

versity, the vice-chancellor is empowered to superintend and govern the markets, to inspect weights and measures, to punish forestallers, regraters, &c. For the execution of these privileges, two *clerks of the market* are chosen from the Masters of Arts, and Bachelors of Divinity, Law, and Medicine.

Few circumstances of local improvement can more strongly mark the increase of liberal spirit than the construction of the new market. For many centuries the market people assembled in different quarters of the city, and exposed their articles for sale in the open air. But, while the venders of provision have thus been collected together on one spot, and accommodated with extensive buildings, it seems surprising that the farmers, who repair to so noble a city, should assemble on market-days in the open highway. Although the portico beneath the town-hall appears well calculated to receive them, they congregate, in the neighbourhood of *Pennyless Bench*,* at Quatrevois, in derision of all inclemency of weather. After making this observation, it is almost superfluous to add that corn is sold *by sample* in Oxford market.

Oxford has no staple manufacture; and the city, now, as in every past age, derives its chief importance from the University. The canal recently formed has opened, however, new sources of commerce; and the activity of the citizens appears too great to allow of their neglecting to profit by the opportunities thus presented.

No

* At the east end of Carfax church may still be seen some faint traces of this once celebrated seat. "Here," says Sir J. Peshall, "the mayor and his brethren met occasionally on public affairs; and, if tradition and history inform us right, this was the seat frequently of the muses, and many wits were *Beackers* here. To this they ascribe the celebrated poem, the *Splendid Shilling*, of Mr. John Philips, student of Christ Church; and that the author of the panegyric on *Oxford ale* was no stranger to this inpiring bench, may be concluded from these verses:

Beneath thy shelter, Pennyless! I quaff
The chearing cup."

No dramatic representations are now allowed, although they were tolerated in the latter part of the seventeenth century. The former proficiency of the students in the histrionic art has been already mentioned, in our notice of the festivities provided for the entertainment of illustrious visitors, in eras previous to the civil war of Charles I.

The internal government of the city is vested in a mayor, high-steward, recorder, four aldermen, eight assistants, two bailiffs, a town clerk, two chamberlains, and twenty-four common-council. Many of the mayors of Oxford have received the honour of knighthood; and the mayor for the time being acts in the buttery at the coronation feast of the kings and queens of England.*

Willis, in his Not. Parl. says, this city sent, *ab origine*, members to Parliament. The members are chosen by the citizens and freemen: the mayor and bailiffs are the returning officers.

Considerable curiosity is necessarily excited concerning the most celebrated natives of a place emphatically termed the seat of learning. The following list is not extensive, but it contains some valuable names.

Thomas Cowper, Bishop of Winchester, author of the Chronicle, and Latin Dictionary.

Thomas Harriot, with whom originated the mode of notation now used in algebra. Harriot was patronized by Sir Walter Raleigh, and accompanied that unwearied friend of science to Virginia. He afterwards received a pension from Henry, Earl of Northumberland, under whose protection he pursued his mathematical studies with comfort and honour. When Raleigh experienced the malignity of fortune, Harriot remained firm to his interest, and he retired to the country shortly after the execution of his first great patron. He died in 1621, in consequence of a cancer in the lip.

William

* This privilege was originally granted by Henry I. The mayor receives a gilt bowl and cover as his fee.

William Chillingworth, the voluminous polemic writer, was born in a small house near Carfax church.* His father was a trader in Oxford, and afterwards filled the office of mayor. The versatility of Chillingworth's opinions is well known. According to Bishop Hare, he was "certainly a good reasoner, but was more a man of genius than of reading." Perhaps no single sentence could convey so just an idea of his literary character. But it must not be forgotten, that Lord Shaftesbury, in his Letters to a young Man at the University, mentions Chillingworth among "the chief pillars of the church against fanaticism."—This eminent divine evinced affection to his native city by bequeathing the sum of 400l. to be lent, with interest, to poor tradesmen, the fund accruing from the interest to be employed in apprenticing destitute children. He died in 1644.

Sir William D'Avenant was likewise born, as has been mentioned under the article Lincoln College, near Carfax church.† According to Wood, none of the vintner's sons were witty and of lively conversation, except William. The same antiquary, who probably gained his intelligence from persons familiar with the parties, says, that the father, though the friend of Shakspeare, and a favorer of plays, was of so grave, and even melancholy, a disposition, that he was seldom or never known to laugh. D'Avenant was tutored in academical learning under Daniel Hough, but his spirits were unwilling, and his progress consequently slow. He had listened to his mother's account of Shakespeare; and had attended to his father's recitation of various moral and sublime passages in the writings of the great bard. His ardent disposition became inflamed with the love of poetry, and he quitted the safety of academical ease, for the precarious services of the muses. In Fulk Grevile, Lord Brooke, he found a patron, of taste and influence;

* Wood observes, that Laud, then Bishop of London, was godfather at his baptism.

† The Crown Inn, at which he was born, was near the Cross Inn, in the corn-market, and on the opposite side to the house which now bears the sign of the crown.

influence; and, on the death of Ben Jonson, was created poet laureat. During the political troubles which speedily ensued he experienced much inconvenience. Hopeless of finding persons in so distracted a period to read his prose, or to listen to his odes, he embarked for Virginia, but was seized by one of the Parliament ships, and was placed as a prisoner in the Tower of London. He owed his liberation chiefly to the interference of Milton; and was constrained to write, for support, those operatical pieces which were the only dramatic representations allowed by the fastidious temper of the age. His works were collected, and reprinted in a folio volume, after his death, for the benefit of his family. Lord Clarendon describes D'Avenant as a man of witty conversation, and of undoubted integrity.

Dr. Edward Pocock, the Orientalist, was born in the parish of St. Peter in the East, *anno* 1604. At fourteen years of age he entered commoner of Magdalen Hall, and was afterwards elected Fellow of Corpus Christi College. He was employed by Archbishop Laud to collect Arabian manuscripts; and was appointed that prelate's first professor of Arabic. By Charles I. he was nominated to the Hebrew professorship, with a canonry of Christ Church annexed, but was ejected by the Parliamentary visitors. He was, however, subsequently reinstated, and held those situations till his death, in 1691.

Antony à Wood, the antiquary, was a descendant of the Woods of Lancashire, and was born in a house opposite the great gate of Merton College, *anno* 1632. His father was a civilian of some repute; and was fined, in 1630, for refusing knighthood. Antony received the rudiments of education at Thame School; and was afterwards admitted Postmaster of Merton College. He possessed that unfortunate species of mental independence which looks with disdain on the social deference necessary in all professional pursuits; and devoted the whole of his time, though his expectations were extremely limited, to the study of history, and the recreations of painting and music. His life presents no vicissitudes to render the page of biography

at once interesting and instructive. He resided entirely at Oxford; and scarcely ever left his books, unless to converse with antiquaries, or to join occasionally in musical parties. For thirty years he almost invariably dined alone in his chamber; and visited the booksellers' shops while the other students were at dinner. His chief works are the "Athenæ," and the "Historia et Antiquitates Universitatis Oxon."* Both these works evince an indefatigable zeal of research; but the former abounds with insinuations and sarcastic remarks, which can be ascribed only to an acrimonious petulance of the most reprehensible description. He has been accused of favoring the church of Rome, and of levelling the most deeply envenomed shafts of his satire against Protestant divines, whose fame would otherwise have been unsullied. But he, in fact, appears to have treated all with indiscriminate severity, and is known to have died in the communion of the church of England. When visited by mortal sickness, he burned *two bushels* of notes and letters; and directed the persons, to whom he bequeathed his papers, to destroy any which contained loose and injurious reflections. A poor and unsatisfactory attempt at expiation! His manuscripts, deposited in a room attached to the Ashmolean Museum, are very numerous.

Wood died in 1695, in consequence of a stranguary, under which he languished for three weeks. He is described by a contemporary as of a large robust make; tall, but not corpulent; with a sedateness of aspect that bordered on melancholy. Hearne says, that though but sixty-four years old† when he died, he appeared to be eighty.

Sir Matthew Wright, author of the Law of Tenures, was likewise a native of Oxford.

* This work was written by Wood, in English, but was translated into Latin by Peers and Reeve, at the instigation of Bishop Fell, and published at the expense of the University. Wood received 100l. for the original.

† He was, in fact, no more than *sixty-three* at the time of his decease.

BULLINGTON HUNDRED

abuts on the eastern part of the city of Oxford, and has its western extremity watered by the river Charwell. The Thame fertilizes a portion of its border on the east and south-east; and several minor streams pervade it in the more central divisions. In consequence of this abundance of water the hundred is particularly rich in meadow and pasture. The soil of the arable land varies extremely; sand, stonebrash, and clay, being often found in the same parish. In the vicinity of Stanton St. John are extensive woods, called the Quarters; and spots of woodland are likewise found in several other districts.

The money raised for the use of the poor, in 1803, amounted to 6840l. 3s. 4½d forming an average of 3s. 1d. in the pound.

This hundred contains the chapelry of *Studley with Horton*, and the following parishes, hamlets, and liberties: *Aldbury, Ambrosden, Arncott, Baldon-marsh, Baldon-toot, Beckley, Blackthorn, Chilworth, Chippinghurst, St. Clements, Church Cowley*, with Temple Cowley, *Cuddesden, Denton, Elsfield, Forest-hill, Garsington, Headington, Holton, Horsepath, Ifley and Hockmoor, Littlemore, Marston, Merton, Nuneham-Courtenay, Piddington, Sandford, Shotover, Stanton St. John's, Stowwood, Tiddington, Water-Perry, Wheatley*, and *Wood-Eaton*.

The village of HEADINGTON, about a mile and a half from Oxford, on the north-east, is traditionally believed to have been chosen by several of the Saxon monarchs as a nursery for their children, on account of the peculiar salubrity of the air. It likewise appears to have contained a royal palace in the time of Etheldred, as that king concludes a charter bestowed on the monastery of St. Frideswide with these words: "This privilege was *idith*, (granted) at Hedinton." As another argument in favour of the village being formerly a royal seat, it may be observed, that it possessed, for many ages, a free chapel, exempt from all customs due to the Bishop of Lincoln and Archdeacon

of Oxford. In a field called Court-close, considerable traces of foundations are said by Dr. Plot to have remained in the seventeenth century; and, within the last twenty years, similar denotations of a former massive building have been discovered, on clearing a fish-pond in the same field. At the time of the Norman survey Headington was enumerated among the lands held by the king; and, in the 25th of Henry II. it was constituted a barony, and given in fee-farm to Thomas Bassett.

The village is agreeably situated on an elevation, and contains some commodious and ornamental buildings, the most conspicuous of which is the residence of Thomas Henry Whorwood, Esq. who holds the manorial rights. The body of the church, a respectable stone edifice, dedicated to St. Andrew, is ancient; the tower was rebuilt in 1679. In the church-yard is the lofty shaft of a cross.

A part of the deep hollow-way which leads from Headington to the city of Oxford, is believed to have been in the line of a branch of Roman road. On one side of this low passage a fine terrace-walk was constructed, by a general subscription of the University, in the early part of the last century; and it, assuredly, presents the most agreeable spot for exercise in the vicinity of Oxford. This excellent foot-path reaches to the very summit of Headington-hill, and commands, in different points, fine views of Oxford, so rich in aspiring turrets and buildings of weighty splendour.*

* It was near the top of this hill, according to popular story, that a student from Oxford was attacked by a wild boar, which issued from the adjoining forest of Shotover, when he escaped by cramming down the throat of the savage a volume of Aristotle. In this circumstance is said to have originated a custom of ushering in a boar's head, with a song, on Christmas Day, at Queen's College; but it is justly observed in the Oxonians, that a boar's head, with a lemon in its mouth, was a usual dish on Christmas Day at every table of consequence in England, until the *decapitating* civil wars of the seventeenth century.

On Headington-Hill formerly stood a cross. Shotover has been long disafforested, and is now denuded of all its leafy harbours.

At the distance of about half a mile from Headington is a *stone quarry*, of considerable extent and utility. The stone here dug is chiefly of the two sorts termed free-stone and rag-stone. It is very porous, and "cuts soft and easy," in the quarry, but hardens when exposed to the weather. The vein is from twelve to fourteen feet deep, but is not worked to the bottom, as it there becomes too soft and sandy for use. Of this stone the more substantial parts of many structures in Oxford are composed; but it is too coarse and porous for the ornamental divisions; and it varies much in quality, the soft and the hard lying indiscriminately mixed in the quarry. It will not bear the fire, but is well adapted to all other circumstances of exposure, and has been used in the building of many elegant bridges.

As the quarry is worked on the gentle ascent of a hill, the super-stratum, which is of a stiff clay, increases as the laborers proceed, and is now not less than twenty-five feet in depth. Imbedded in this clay are often found pieces of wood and shells. The wood is generally oak; and the largest fragment discovered within remembrance was not more than three feet long. The shells are of various kinds, and are found at all depths, both singly and in clusters. It does not appear that the larger and more weighty of the shells, or disjointed pieces of wood, are by any means uniformly found in the lowest places.

Marston, a small village near Headington, was long the residence of a branch of the Croke family, who took an active part on the side of the Parliament in the civil war. Of this family was the careless and eccentric Charles Croke, who, indifferent to all parties, passed the prime of life in wandering about the world, with little fortune, and with no pursuit. He published an account of these rambles, under the name of Rodolphus, in a book intituled, "Youth's Inconstancy," printed in 1667. The ancient manor-house in which his father resided still remains, and is now partly used as a granary. The church is a pleasing Gothic building, constructed at different periods, but with a commendable uniformity of style. Near the porch are the mutilated frag-

fragments of a cross; and, on the exterior of the yard, at the point where the several approaches to the church unite, are the more perfect remains of a second cross, with three ranges of kneeling places.

The neighbouring village of ELDSFIELD gave a surname to a wealthy family, one of whom, Gilbert de Eldsfield, attained much celebrity in the reign of Edward I. From the Eldsfields the manor went, by marriage, to the family of Hore, long seated in Cambridgeshire; and, in the time of Henry VII. by the failure of male issue, it came to the Pudseys.

The grass-grown street of this village evinces its thinness of population, and absence from the haunts of traffic, though so near the city of Oxford. Over the porch of the humble church is a cross, which the spectator would suppose, from its construction, to be of great antiquity. But the fact is otherwise. About half a century back a resident clergyman indulged in the fancy of building a large stable, in imitation of a Norman religious structure. This stable, with its appendant cross, at the death of the ingenious founder, became the property of a second resident clergyman; and he, thinking the cross too delicate for the stable, and too valuable an ornament to be entirely laid aside, translated it from the rude chamber of quadrupeds to the place it now occupies.

At WOOD EATON, the pleasant residence of John Weyland, Esq. formerly resided Sir Richard Taverner, who obtained a licence, under favour of the Protector Somerset, to preach, though a layman. In our notice of the chief events connected with the city of Oxford, we have given a specimen of those oratorical talents which assisted in wafting the seeds of anarchy throughout the kingdom, while they laboured to disturb the simplicity of established religious opinions. This deluded person died at Wood-Eaton, in 1575, at the age of seventy, and left behind him many writings; but, both himself and his works would have been long since forgotten, if his mental distemper had been exhibited in modes less flagrantly absurd.

In the year 1676 there were found at Wood-Eaton, on removing some old foundations, two British coins, which were presented to Dr. Plot, and are thus described by him :—" The first, no doubt, is a coin of Cunobeline, it shewing a horse and his inscription on one side, and an ear of corn and CAMU on the reverse; intimating the place of its coinage to be Camulodunum, the royal seat and city of Cunobeline. This coin varies from that of the same king described by Camden, with a similar reverse, in that the final letter O of the inscription is not placed in a line with the preceding letters, under the horse's feet, but just before his breast; the horse having also a *spica*, or ear of corn, or *some such like thing*, placed over the back. The second has nothing on it but somewhat like a chalice, and a crooked lineation, under which there is also a forked kind of figure, and a small crescent." Some Roman urns have likewise been discovered in this neighbourhood.

FOREST-HILL. The village so called is situated on an eminence about three miles east of Oxford, and is rendered interesting by its connexion with the great Milton. It was here that he spent the happiest hours of life, those of early affection; and from this village he married his first wife. Sir William Jones, in a letter addressed to Lady Spencer, in the year 1769, gives a florid description of the feelings with which he contemplated this spot, so hallowed in the esteem of the true lovers of poetry. He points out the place from which, in his opinion, Milton gathered the finest images of his L'Allegro, and proposes, with honorable enthusiasm, to select a party of friends, if he should reside at Oxford for a sufficient time during the summer months, and " to hire and repair the venerable mansion in which the poet lived, for the celebration of a festival in his honour."

But the warmth of Sir William's feelings caused him to disregard the dull accompaniment of facts. Milton is known to have modelled his poem on that by Burton; and he wrote it when young, probably when his father lived at Horton, in Buckinghamshire. It must likewise be observed, that the poet did not

reside

reside at Forest-hill. At the time he addressed his future wife, he received pupils in Aldersgate-street, and he returned to London immediately after his marriage.

The lady he married was Mary, daughter of Richard Powell. Some parts of the house in which Mr. Powell lived are still remaining; and they, assuredly, cannot be viewed without great interest, though the marriage is well known to have produced, in its early stages, so little felicity, that the lady returned to her father, a few weeks after her nuptials, and refused to attend to the summons of her husband. The scenery, from many elevated points in the neighbourhood, is extremely fine, and may be easily supposed to have lent imagery to some of the sublime descriptions of nature contained in Milton's latter productions.

Many cottages in this interesting little village are adorned with vines and honey-suckles, as if for the purpose of adding to the poetical influence of the scene. The church stands near the summit of the hill, and is rendered picturesque by the yew-trees in the yard, and the ivy which overhangs the walls. The stone font is protected by a handsome wooden cover: on it are inscribed the names of several young men, who effected the purchase with the money collected at a Whitsun-ale, in 1710. The register of the parish begins 1625.

At a short distance from the church is *Shotover-house*, a spacious modern mansion, built of stone, and surrounded by woodland, the property and residence of George Schutz, Esq. In this neighbourhood, so frequently trodden by the greatest of English epic poets, resided for some time Mickle, the translator of the Lusiad.

The village of WHEATLEY, distant from Oxford five miles, on the high road to London through Beaconsfield, is completely imbedded among a group of hills, and assumes, from that circumstance, an aspect of serenity and comfort; but gathers, from its situation, more inconveniences than would be derived from an exposure to the roughest winds of the north. Its avenues are damp

and

and cheerless, even in summer, and seem to act as drains to the surrounding country.

Near Wheatley is *Holton-Park*, the seat of Edmund Biscoe, Esq. The old mansion of this domain was encompassed by a moat. The present respectable stone edifice occupies a different site, and is deeply secluded and embowered on one side, while the other commands an extensive prospect over a fine alternation of hill and valley. It is to be regretted that the stone of which this house is composed, (taken from a quarry in Shotover parish) already crumbles, and wears the appearance of antiquity, though the building has been completed within the last three years.

Two miles on the north-east of Wheatley is WATER-PERRY, the residence of Henry Curzon, Esq. a large and respectable mansion, but seated among the flattest meads that border on the river Thame. The family of Curzon has been long resident in Oxfordshire, and took an active part on the side of Charles in the civil war. Many of its members are buried in Water-Perry church, and are commemorated by brasses, and by paints in the windows. In the church is likewise an ancient stone, said to have been brought from Osney Abbey. The inscription is gone, but the verge is circumscribed with death's heads and crossed bones, alternately. Inarched in a wall of the aisle lies a knight templar, on whose shield appears a bendlet, between six fleurs de lys. The register of the parish begins 1539.

CUDDESDEN PALACE, the episcopal residence of the bishops of Oxford, is a commodious rather than a splendid mansion, about seven miles south by east of Oxford, near the course of the river Thame. After Gloucester Hall, the first residence appropriated to the bishops, was resumed by the crown, the prelate was destitute of a palace, until Dr. Bancroft, at the instigation of Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, constructed an episcopal seat. To this building the king contributed a large quantity of timber from the forest of Shotover; and the palace, with a chapel in it, was finished in 1635.

When

PUBLIC

When Oxford became the fortified residence of the king during the civil war, Colonel William Legg, then governor of Oxford, feared that the bishop's palace might be used as a garrison for the Parliamentary forces; and, under that apprehension, the edifice was burned to the ground. At the same time Sir Thomas Gardiner destroyed a house belonging to himself, on the south side of the church. The ruins of the palace remained untouched till Dr. Fell, Bishop of Oxford, at his own cost, rebuilt the edifice on its old foundation, with a chapel in it as before. The outside was completed in 1679, and the interior shortly after.—In the adjoining church of Cuddesden parish is buried Dr. John Bancroft, Bishop of Oxford, through whose liberality the original palace was constructed.

At Garsington a house was built, in a quadrangular form, by Sir Thomas Pope, founder of Trinity College, Oxford, for the accommodation of his students when the plague prevailed in the University. They twice took refuge in this building; and, on both occasions, performed the same exercises of learning and devotion as when in college. On a screen, dividing the chancel from the body of the parish church, are the arms of Sir Thomas Pope, among those of several other persons. This church formerly paid a pension of forty shillings to the priory of St. Frideswide. In the 28th of Edward I. John de la Mare was summoned to Parliament, as Baron of Garsington.

Ifley, or Yeofly, a small village on the border of the river Isis, about one mile and a half from Oxford, is remarkable only for its church, which is an interesting specimen of Saxon architecture. This structure consists of one aisle and a chancel, having a tower of flat proportions nearly in the centre. On each side of the tower are two circular-topped windows, supported by pillars, and half filled up by a facing of stone. On the north-west angle is a square turret, with a cluster of pillars at the top: a stone staircase within leads to the upper part of the tower.

The church is entered on both sides by Saxon door-ways, ornamented by columns, the shafts, as well as the capitals, of which are

are richly carved. The west end is extremely fine. The door-case (now disused,) is composed of receding divisions of mouldings, which, though somewhat rudely worked, produce a striking grandeur of effect. Both on the north and south many pointed windows have been introduced at different eras, but the remains of the ancient circular finish are evident over each.

The interior retains the marks of rude and cold, but commanding, magnificence. The two fine arches which divide the church are sustained by clustered pillars, and richly ornamented with chevron work. The pulpit was originally of stone, and worked into one of these pillars, but only the steps and pediment are now remaining. One portion of the roof, still uninjured, is much embellished, and supported by three taper shafts. On the right of the altar are three large stone recesses, and one intended as a receptacle for holy water. The font is Saxon, very large, and the basin supported by three twisted pillars, and one of a different construction.

SANDFORD is an irregular village, partly built on a gentle ascent, at the distance of three miles from Oxford, on the road to London through Henley. The church is a humble building, of Norman architecture. On the north side of the altar is an image of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary. This curious relic was found in the year 1723, with the face downwards, near the entrance of the church; in which situation it had, probably, remained since the era of church-reformation. In Sandford parish was a preceptory of Templars, first founded by Maud, wife of King Stephen, in the adjacent village, now called Temple Cowley. Edward I. granted to the Knights-templars, and their successors for ever, free warren in all their lands at Sandford. The house, at the Dissolution, came to the Powell family.

Near Sandford, but in the parish of *Littlemore*, was a Benedictine nunnery, founded before the time of Henry II. and suppressed in 1524, for Wolsey. Some remains are still to be seen in the premises attached to a farm-house, called, in allusion to the former building, Mincherry Farm. The state of these relics, about

PUBLIC

NUNKHAM COURTENAY,
Oxfordshire.

about seventy years back, is thus described in a MS. among the collections by Dr. Rawlinson, deposited in the Bodleian Library:—"Near Sandford was a nunnery termed Mincheree, perhaps from Minchon Ree, Minchon signifying a nun. There are the ruins of many buildings yet remaining, particularly a long stack of building standing north and south. The north end thereof I judge to be the common hall, at the end of which stood the chapel, as appears by many stone coffins and bones frequently dug up there. It was formerly well wooded, and had pleasant walks about it, and many fish-ponds, some of which remain." The seal of the nunnery, a man in a gown, with flowing hair, was found by a farmer, about the year 1762, and was shewn to the Society of Antiquaries, by the Bishop of Carlisle.

NUNEHAM-COURTENAY, the seat of the Earl of Harcourt, demands particular notice. Taste, liberality, and domestic virtue, have united to adorn its halls and to spread a charm over every surrounding feature. Poetic genius flew to the happy spot as a secure asylum, and sanctified the shades with its effusions, while it instilled its spirit into every new disposal of the scene.

At the Norman Survey, the manor of Nuneham belonged to Richard de Curci: afterwards to the family of Riparys, or Redvers. Mary, youngest daughter of William de Redvers, Earl of Devon, (who, as well as his Uncle William, was surnamed, De Vernon) married Robert de Courtenay, Baron of Okehampton, in 1214. It is probable, that by this marriage the manor was carried into the family of Courtenay, and thence assumed the name of Nuneham-Courtenay.

After them succeeded Sir John Pollard, of Devon. From the Pollards it came to ——— Audley, of the court of wards, called the rich Audley. From him to Robert Wright, Bishop of Litchfield, whose son, Calvert Wright, sold it to John Robinson, of London, merchant, knighted in 1660, by King Charles II. and made lieutenant of the tower. From the Robinsons it descended to David, Earl of Wemys, (who married Mary, daughter and coheiress of Sir John Robinson, Bart.) from whom it was purchased,

chased, in 1710, by Simon, first Lord Harcourt, Lord Chancellor of England *.

The park contains near twelve hundred acres, and evinces, in every division, great richness of natural circumstance, improved by the hand of reverential, rather than of presumptuous, art. Perhaps the talent of Brown, who assisted in the arrangement of the grounds, was never displayed to greater advantage. Each artifice to heighten pictorial effect, is so judiciously concealed, that the whole seems graceful in the simplicity of nature, though no superabundance obstructs the wishes of refined taste. From various points are obtained views of the Witenham Hills, of a part of Buckinghamshire, and the high elevations above the vale of White Horse. A drive is formed, which conducts to the chief objects of interest in the park, and continues through a wood that falls with a steep descent to the river Isis, the bank of which is here very abruptly and finely broken by steep and bold projections. On quitting this wood the house and river appear with new features, and the prospect is terminated by Shotover Hill. The Drive then circles round a grove, and passes a conduit, which formerly stood near Carfax Church, Oxford; but which was taken down in 1787, and presented to his lordship by the University. †

The house is situated on the slope of a hill, and the front placed towards the ascent. From this circumstance of situation all striking beauty of approach is forbidden; but groupes of spreading

* This notice of the descent of the property is taken from an account written by the late Earl of Harcourt, but not published, to which we are indebted for many particulars, merely relating to matters of fact, in the ensuing pages. It may be added, that, from a memorandum among Dr. Rawlinson's papers in the Bodleian Library, the estate, with the annexed advowson, appears to have cost the Lord Chancellor Harcourt 17,000l.

† This conduit contains much curious masonry, and was erected in 1617, at the expense of Otho Nicholson, M. A. of Christ Church, for the purpose of supplying the different colleges and halls of Oxford with water from North Hinksey.

ing elms are united to the building by side-skreens of shrubbery, and impart a powerful effect of contrast to the extensive views commanded by the back-front of the edifice. The front is a handsome stone elevation, with projecting wings, joined to the body of the structure by inflected corridores. The vestibule is small, but ornamented by some good casts of antique statues.

Nearly every room and corridore of the mansion contains valuable paintings. Our notice of these must necessarily be limited to the most interesting.

The saloon, thirty feet by sixteen, and eighteen and a half high, is hung with green damask, and ornamented by many pictures, among which are:

Susannah and the elders, by Annibal Caracci.

Two beggar boys, by Murillio.

A nymph with Cupids, representing evening, by Valerio Castelli. A good picture, though the colouring is rather gaudy.

Lady Ann Finch, daughter of Thomas, first Earl of Winchelsea, and wife to Sir William Waller. A fine and animated portrait, replete with grace and character.

George Simon, Viscount Nuneham, at the age of seventeen, by Sir Joshua Reynolds.

Elizabeth Vernon, wife to Henry, Earl of Southampton, by Cornelius Jansen. A fine portrait of a very elegant woman, with a cap of lace in the shape of a shell, and a ruff falling back from the shoulders, and ascending over the back of her head. This picture was a present from the Lady Charlotte Finch, and is lettered at the back in the hand-writing of her grand-daughter, the celebrated Rachel, Lady Russell.

The ante-room is twenty-four feet by fifteen, and eighteen and a half high. This room contains, among other paintings:

An excellent portrait of Louis XIV. by Mignard.

A small but highly finished head of Sir William Waller, the Parliamentarian general. It has been engraved by Milton for the vindication of Sir William, written by himself. At the back

is

is a copy of his admirable letter to Sir Ralph (afterwards Lord) Hopton, written before the battle of Lansdown.

In the corridore, which leads to the library, the two following portraits attract notice:

Anne of Denmark, Queen of James I. A purple, gold-edged, scarf round her left arm. Among other ornaments composed of precious stones in her head-dress, is a kind of hair-pin, made to represent a cross bow, with the string drawn.

Vandermyn, painter to the Prince of Orange. In this singular half-length portrait, Vandermyn is represented at his dressing-table, and no part of his attire is seen but a costly shirt, with rich lappets of lace round the neck and down the front. He has a comb in his hand, and two more are lying on the table. Upon the stretching frame is the following inscription: "The face was done by her royal highness, Anne, Princess of Orange, soon after her marriage, while the painter was attending at St. James's, to take the pictures of the said prince and princess, on that happy occasion. All but the face was done by himself. The princess was a good painter, and did it in great grace and condescension." Vandermyn died in 1741.

The library is thirty-two feet four by nineteen, and fourteen feet four inches high. The books are not numerous, but of a sterling character, and the portraits of literary men which adorn this place of study are, in many instances, rendered peculiarly valuable by the connexion which existed between the originals, and former representatives of the house of Harcourt. The most interesting of the portraits appear to be,

Pope, by Sir Godfrey Kneller. This is in the best style of the artist, and is traditionally believed in the noble family to be the most exact likeness of Pope that ever was produced. The picture was painted expressly for such a place as it now occupies; and, at the back, is a copy of an original letter from Pope to the first Lord Harcourt, dated August 2, 1723, in which he says, "It is a satisfaction to me that I shall not be any way disappointed of the

the honour you intend me of filling a place in your library with my picture." The features are youthful, and far from expressing acerbity of temper, but are pensive; and the hand is applied to the head, as if to relieve pain by pressure.

Prior, a fine head by Dahl.

Whitehead, Poet Laureat, by Wilson. Whitehead was honoured with the friendly patronage of the late Earl, and he paid to his kind entertainer the tribute of many poetical effusions, written at Nuneham-Courtenay.

The Honourable Horace Walpole (Earl of Orford) after Ramsey. This portrait will be contemplated with more pleasure if we look on the writer rather than the man. His lordship had much taste and great critical acumen; but he was a stranger to that expansive liberality which ought to be the result of such accomplishments. He venerated poetry and painting, but cherished too narrow a pride to regard with respect those who professionally practised his favourite arts. A temper like this would scarcely appear to qualify his portrait for an association with the major part of those by which it is here surrounded.

Shakspeare. A good copy, in crayons, by old Vandergucht, of the presumed original in the possession of the late Duke of Chandos.

Mason, by Doughty. An excellent likeness of a man whose features would seem to deride the principles of Lavater. The aspect of Mason was heavy, and somewhat coarse; but his elegant mind was fitted to every art that exalts the imagination. His accomplishments procured him the notice of the late Earl of Harcourt, and his virtues raised the connexion into friendship.

The Eating Room is a handsome apartment, thirty-three feet by twenty-four, and eighteen and a half high. The windows command fine views over the Isis, with the majestic turrets of Oxford in the distance. The chimney-piece of statuary marble was designed by Stuart. The paintings are numerous; from which we select for mention,

The Earl of Harcourt, with his Countess (Elizabeth, second

daughter of George Venables Vernon, first Lord Vernon,) in the coronation robes, and the Honourable William Harcourt, in the uniform of aid de camp to the king. By Sir Joshua Reynolds. The colouring rich and harmonious, but less of character in the figures than we find in many portraits by Sir Joshua. Gorgeous robes, though calculated to produce a certain splendour of effect, must needs act as shackles on the genius of so great an artist.

A Landscape, with waterfall, by Ruysdael; the figures by Wouvermans. The water particularly fine.

Dogs and dead game, by Snyder. Full of character, fire, and fidelity.

A Landscape, with a decayed cottage. A highly finished picture by Decker, and one of his best productions.

A Landscape, with cattle, by Rosa da Tivoli. Remarkable for differing much from his usual manner.

A Landscape by Claude.

The Octagon Drawing Room, thirty feet by twenty-four, and eighteen and a half high. This room is hung with scarlet cloth. The doorways and ceiling are whitened, with interspersed carving and gilding. The effect of the whole is lively and pleasing; but the warm colour of the hanging is obviously not calculated to exhibit the paintings to advantage. The prospect from the windows is extensive, though rather flat. The ground on this side descends towards the river, which is, from every point, the great ornament of the natural scenery. There are several attractive pictures in this room, particularly,

The Holy Family, by Barocci, known by the name of *La Madonna colla Gatta*, from a cat introduced in one corner, sitting as if begging. The attention of the children is directed towards the cat, and from this circumstance the expression of the whole family is playful, animated, and partaking more of ordinary domestic manners than is usual with the subject *. The colouring

* The greatest masters, it is well known, have occasionally represented members

ing is very soft and fine. This picture formed a part of the Pomfret collection, and was etched by Barocci himself.

A Madonna and Child, by Guido. Replete with unaffected loveliness. Like that reality of feminine beauty which is calculated to sink deep, and place an immoveable interest in the heart, this picture has no eminent boldness, nor richness of tint to arrest the fancy by a first impression; but a thousand nameless graces are discovered on investigation. The applause given to the painter's art moves slow; but, at length, can scarcely fail of rising to enthusiasm.

Moses sweetening the waters of Meriba, by Poussin.

A Sun-set, with a shepherd and sheep, by Bamboccio. Extremely fine.

A small head of Sofonisba Anguisciolo, by herself. The charms of this little portrait are very great. The flesh is particularly delicate, and the countenance animated beyond description.

The great Drawing Room, forty-nine feet by twenty-four, and eighteen and a half high. The ceiling of this noble room is divided into compartments by broad and bold mouldings, carved and gilt, from a design of Stuart. The chimney-piece of statuary marble is very elegant, and designed by Paul Sandby. Among the numerous pictures are,

Four very large and fine landscapes, by Van Artois. The figures of three by Teniers.

A moonlight landscape, with a waggon in danger of overturning, by Rubens. The moonlight tints finely various, and the repose of the moon, as reflected in the water, admirable.

St. Margaret, by Titian. This picture was in the collection of Charles I. and has been etched by Hugh Howard, the painter.

Maria, Countess Dowager of Waldegrave, and Duchess of

members of the Holy Family under familiar circumstances. One of the most curious instances occurs in the chapel room of *Monte Cavallo*, where Guido has painted the Virgin Mary in the act of sewing an infant's garment, while some little attendant angels are watching the motion of her needle.

Gloucester, by Reynolds. The expression and colouring equally evince the master.

A moon-light on the water, by Vander Neer.

The embarkation of King Charles II. at Scheveling, in 1660, with English and Dutch yatchts, by Vander Veldt.

In the corridore adjoining the great drawing-room are several portraits of the Harcourt family, chiefly taken from effigies on monuments in different places.

The State Bedchamber, thirty-two feet four by twenty feet six, and fourteen feet four inches high, is ornamented by various portraits. The most conspicuous appear to be

The present king and queen, by Hunneman, after Gainsborough. Presents from their majesties.

Simon, Lord Harcourt, Lord Chancellor of England, by Sir Godfrey Kneller. His lordship was educated at Pembroke College, Oxford, and was created *Baron* Harcourt in 1712, and *Viscount* Harcourt in 1721.

Robert, eldest son of Sir Walter Harcourt. He was the principal adventurer with Sir W. Ralegh in the voyage to Guiana, for which expedition he built and fitted out, at his own expense, three vessels. By his loss in this undertaking, added to the expense incurred in buildings at Ellen Hall, in the county of Stafford, he dissipated a large fortune, and was constrained to sell his estate in Staffordshire, and that of Whitham, in Berks, both of which possessions had been in the family from the time of King John.

The Dressing Room contains, among other paintings,

A curious, ancient, cabinet picture of the court of wards and liveries, with portraits of the officers, servants, and other persons there assembled. Vertue engraved a print on this subject, from a water-colour painting in possession of the Duke of Bridgewater. The piece here preserved is supposed to be the original.

Sarah Jennings, Duchess of Marlborough. A good copy after Kneller, presented by the Duchess to the first Lord Harcourt.

The

The table in this room was a present from the Princess Royal, on quitting England. It is embellished with a basket of flowers, drawn on vellum, in India ink, by her Royal Highness.

In the second dressing room are, likewise, many paintings, among which are

A woman on horseback, with attendant figures and animals.—A well executed picture, by Watteau.

A sea-storm, by Scott. An estimable little piece, presented by her late Royal Highness the Duchess of Gloucester.

Mary, Queen of Scots. A fine copy from the undoubted original painted when she was a prisoner in the castle of Loch Leven. The face very handsome, and the form graceful.

The Tapestry Room. The hangings of this apartment are supposed to present the earliest specimen extant of the art of tapestry-weaving in England, which was introduced by William Sheldon, in the reign of Henry VIII. The tapestry is descriptive of three large maps of the counties of Oxford, Warwick, and Worcester, and was presented by the Honourable Horace Walpole. The frize is divided into compartments, and enriched with Gothic shields, bearing the arms and intermarriages of the Harcourt family from its origin in 876 *. Over the doors are two very ancient whole length pictures of St. Catharine, and a male saint, which originally formed the folding doors of an altar-piece.

In two round pannels are the arms of Robert Harcourt, Knight of the Garter, in the reign of Edward IV. and those of Robert, his grandson. In each angle of the ceiling is "a knight in armour, upon a horse, caparisoned according to ancient usage, representing four of the Harcourts, who by marriage added large estates to the family possessions." This room was built in 1787.

The back front of the house is a chaste elevation, with a bay window in the centre, supported by Ionic pillars.

The gardens contain thirty-eight acres, and were laid out (with

* The family traces its origin to Bernard, a nobleman of the blood-royal of Saxony, whose descendant, Robert de Harcourt, came over with the Conqueror.

an exception of the flower garden) by Brown. In the disposal of these it has been the constant aim to assist nature by art, rather than to encumber her. A walk is constructed through the most interesting parts, which now opens to a luxuriant and decorated champaign, and now winds through the recesses of a thick grove *, occasionally surprising the stranger by a sudden display of rich and diversified prospect. The seats are happily placed, and are designed with taste. Other embellishments are likewise introduced; but not with exuberance or formality. Among these is an urn dedicated to the memory of Whitehead, with the following inscription by Mason:

Harcourt and friendship this memorial raise,
  Near to the oak where Whitehead oft reclin'd,
Where all that nature, robed by art, displays,
  With charms congenial sooth'd his polish'd mind.
Let fashion's votaries, let the "sons of fire,"
  The genius of that modest bard despise,
Who bade discretion regulate his lyre,
  Studious to please, but scorning to surprise.
Enough for him, if those who shar'd his love
  Through life, who virtue more than verse revere,
Here pensive pause, while circling round the grove,
  And drop the heart-paid tribute of a tear.

The church of Nuneham-Courtenay forms a noble ornament to the pleasure-grounds. This building was erected in 1764, at the expense of Simon, Earl of Harcourt, and after a design of his own, slightly

* A pleasing little circumstance connected with the woodland of Nuneham evinces the liberality of the former proprietors of the estate. There is a tree in these grounds, well known to the country people by the name of Bob's tree. It was planted by one Barbara Wyat, who was so much attached to it that, on the removal of the village of Nuneham Courtenay to its present site, she petitioned for leave to remain in her old habitation. Her request was complied with, and her cottage not pulled down till after her death. A poem was written on this subject by Whitehead, and placed on a seat beneath the tree.

slightly corrected by Stuart. In passing the arcade on the north side of the house the west end of the church, comprising a semi-rotunda of Ionic columns, supporting a dome, forms a fine object through an opening in the trees. The walk, after some deviations, continues through the portico, and displays the church in a particularly happy point of view. The interior of this pleasing edifice was furnished by the late earl, in a simple and appropriate manner. Its only ornaments are two tablets, with the Harcourt arms in French tapestry; another piece of tapestry representing the chiefs of the twelve tribes of Israel at the Passover; and an altar-picture by Mr. Mason. The subject of this latter performance is the Parable of the Good Samaritan. The piece is well conceived, and executed with much spirit. In the church is a barrel organ, on which is set Mason's music for the responses to the commandments, and his Sunday hymns. The adjoining flower-garden was entirely laid out according to Mason's directions; "so that, in a very small space, we have specimens of his genius in music, painting, and poetry; of his taste in improving the beauties of nature, and (what is most soothing to those who loved him) a proof that he applied his talents to the noblest purpose, that of celebrating the praises of Him from whom he received them."*

The flower-garden contains about an acre and a quarter, and has no visible connexion with the pleasure-grounds. The boundary is formed by a thick matting of shrubs, which unites with the surrounding woodland of the park. The entrance is from the path, which ascends towards the church, beneath the pediment of a Doric gate, on which is placed the following sentence from Rousseau, so beautifully allusive to the world of flowers: "Si l'Auteur de la Nature est grand dans les grandes choses, il est très grand dans les petites."

Fronting the gate, and backed by a mass of shrubs, is a bust of Flora, with this inscription from Chaucer:

* Account by the Earl of Harcourt.

Here springs the violet all newe,
And fresh Perwinke riche of hewe;
And flouris yalowe, white, and rede,
Such plenti grew ther ner in mede:
Full gai is all the grounde, and queint
And poudrid, as men had it peint,
With many a fresh and sondry floure
That castin up ful gode savoure.

"A gravel walk, enclosed with shrubs, leads to the right, when a view soon opens to an irregular slope, enriched with tufts of flowers, seen beneath the branches of trees. The walk then continues between detached trees, till the eye is confined on either side by a thick shrubbery, that unites to the right with a plantation in the park. On a rising bank is a statue of Hebe, with the following inscription by Whitehead:

Hebe, from thy cup divine,
Shed, O shed! nectareous dews:
Here o'er Nature's living shrine
Th' immortal drops diffuse;
Here, while ev'ry bloom's display'd,
Shining fair in vernal pride,
Catch the colours ere they fade,
And check the green blood's ebbing tide,
Till youth eternal like thine own prevail,
Safe from the night's damp wing, or day's insidious gale.

"The path now becomes narrower, and passes through an arched rock covered with ivy, which is designed in imitation of a natural cavern. On one side, on a piece of marble, are these lines from Comus:

Musing meditation most affects
The pensive secresy of desert cell;
And wisdom's self
Oft seeks to sweet retired solitude,

Where

Where with her best nurse, contemplation,
She plumes her feathers, and lets grow her wings,
That in the various bustle of resort
Were all too ruffled, and sometimes impair'd.

"The front of the grotto is partially concealed by ivy and other creeping plants; and, through an opening before it, is caught a glimpse of the garden." On a long slanting stone, which appears to be the smooth part of a craig, is an inscription by Whitehead, to the memory of Walter Clark, an ancient florist much favoured by the Earl and countess. After a long and faithful servitude he died suddenly in the garden, and was honoured, likewise, with a poetical tribute from Horace Walpole.

From this spot there is another opening to the interior of the garden, and opposite to it is a bust of Rousseau, with this inscription, by Sir Brook Boothby, Bart.:

Say, is thy honest heart to virtue warm?
Can genius animate thy feeling breast?
Approach, behold this venerable form,
'Tis Rousseau; let thy bosom speak the rest.

The Temple of Flora is the next object. This elegant little building is constructed after the design of a Doric portico at Athens. On the back wall is a medallion of Flora, from the antique, accompanied by these lines from Ariosto:

Vaghi boschetti di soavi Allori,
Di Palme, e d' amenissime Mortelle,
Cedri et aranei, c'havean frutti e fiori,
Contesti in varie forme e tutte belle,
Facean riparo a i fervidi calori
De' giorni estivi con lor spesse ombrelle:
E tra quei rami con sicuri voli
Cantando se ne giano i Rossignoli.

On

On one side is a bust of Faunus, and on the other that of Pan, with the following inscriptions:

Faunus would oft, as Horace sings,
Delighted with his rural seats,
Forsake Arcadia's groves and springs,
For soft Lucretile's retreats.
'Twas beauty charm'd; what wonder then,
Enamour'd of a fairer scene,
The changeful God should change again,
And here for ever fix his reign?

WHITEHEAD.

Here universal Pan,
Knit with the graces, and the hours in dance,
Leads on th' eternal spring.

MILTON.

Near this spot is a cinerary urn, to the memory of Mason, with this inscription:

"The poet's feeling and the painter's eye,"
In this thy lov'd retreat we pleas'd descry.
Ah, Mason! in the scene thy fancy drest
Oft shall the sigh of sorrow heave the breast;
Oft recollection picture to the mind
The various talents that in thee were join'd.
And, while thy lofty genius well may claim
The brightest guerdon from the hand of fame,
Thy simple manners, that disdain'd all art,
The genuine piety that warm'd thy heart,
Thy steady friendship, justly might require
Numbers like those that once inform'd thy lyre.
Ah, fruitless wish! for ever mute that strain,
And "Numbers worthy thee," we ask in vain.

This urn is placed in a kind of recess, overshadowed by the drooping branches of a large spruce fir. Beyond it is a glade, decorated

corated by flower-beds and shrubs, with single Swedish junipers, which act as mimic cypresses, projecting before them!

The primary leading path, which is formed to embrace the whole of the most captivating features of the garden, then reaches a bower, designed by Mason for that particular spot. The front consists of three unequal arches, and is painted green, and covered with climbers. On either side are busts of Venus and Apollo.

ON THE BUST OF VENUS.

Thee, goddess! thee the clouds and tempests fear,
And at thy pleasing presence disappear:
For thee the land in fragrant flow'rs is dress'd.

DRYDEN, from LUCRETIUS.

ON THE BUST OF APOLLO.

Lucido Dio,
Per cui l' April fiorisce.

METASTASIO.

Within is a cast of Cupid and Psyche, from the antique; and, on a tablet, are the following verses, by Andrew Marvell:

Fair quiet, have I found thee here,
With innocence, thy sister dear!
Mistaken long I sought thee then
In busy companies of men;
Your sacred plants, at length, I know,
Will only in retirement grow.
Society is all but rude,
To this delicious solitude,
Where all the flowers and trees do close
To weave the garland of repose.

The walk now bends to the left, where, on a bank between two beeches, is a bust of Prior:

See

See, friend, in some few fleeting hours,
See yonder what a change is made!
Ah me! the blooming pride of May,
And that of beauty, are but one;
At morn both flourish, bright and gay,
Both fade at evening, pale and gone!

The path then takes a bolder sweep as it descends; and, within a recess in the shrubbery, surrounded by sombre evergreens, is placed on an altar a votive urn, thus inscribed:

SACRED
To the Memory of FRANCES POOLE,
Viscountess Palmerston.

Here shall our ling'ring footsteps oft be found,
This is her shrine, and consecrates the ground.
Here living sweets around her altar rise,
And breathe perpetual incense to the skies.
Here too the thoughtless and the young may tread,
Who shun the dreatier mansions of the dead;
May here be taught what worth the world has known.
Her wit, her sense, her virtues, were her own;
To her peculiar, and for ever lost
To those who knew, and therefore lov'd her, most.
O! if kind pity steal on virtue's eye,
Check not the tear, nor stop the useful sigh;
From soft humanity's ingenuous flame
A wish may rise to emulate her fame,
And some faint image of her worth restore,
When those who now lament her are no more.

George Simon Harcourt, and the Honourable Elizabeth Vernon, Viscount and Viscountess Nuneham, erected this urn in the year 1771, and William Whitehead, Esq. Poet Laureat, wrote the verses.

In

In other parts of the garden are busts of Locke and Cowley, with the following inscriptions:

COWLEY.

When Epicurus to the world had taught
That pleasure was the chiefest good,
His life he to his doctrine brought,
And in a garden's shade that sovereign good he sought.

LOCKE.

Who made the whole internal world his own,
And shew'd confess'd to reason's purged eye,
That Nature's first best gift was liberty.

The conservatory is stored with orange trees of various kinds, planted in the ground. The treillage of the back wall is covered with exotic jessamines, &c.

This garden must ever be considered interesting, as a proof of the facility with which the accomplished Mason could reduce to practice those theoretic principles which he laid down in his excellent poem. It will be observed that the ornaments are numerous; but they are so placed as to be seen in unexpected succession. Every embellishment partakes of sentiment, and of sentiment so refined, that the most scrupulous taste can scarcely allow any circumstance to be superfluous. "A flower garden," says Lord Harcourt, "being professedly a work of art, admits of all the embellishments that art can bestow. But taste alone could not have formed this spot, in which so much of invention and fancy is displayed, that it is apparent the genius of poetry must have assisted in the composition."

Nuneham has called forth the frequent aspirations of poetic genius. Besides the pieces written by Mason, Jerningham, Whitehead, and Walpole, several unacknowledged poems, which evidently

evidently proceeded from no human hands, have been left in the most admired parts of the domain.

The village of Nuneham Courtenay is situate on the high road from Oxford to London, through Henley, and was entirely built by the noble family on whom it is dependent. The houses are calculated for rustic labourers, and are uniformly divided into pairs. Nearly in the centre of one of the sides is a cottage-residence of a superior character, intended for the officiating clergyman.

In the village is a school, supported by the Earl of Harcourt, which is open to all the children of the neighbourhood. The mode of tuition is nearly framed on the Lancaster principles, and emulation is judiciously excited by various prizes, rising in value from a childish picture to a comfortable article of dress. The curate of the parish is *visitor* of this laudable institution.

At the distance of half a mile from Nuneham Courtenay is BALDON, the seat of Lady Willoughby, placed on a gentle knoll, and adorned by a pleasing succession of wood and water. The late Sir Christopher Willoughby retained for his own use a considerable portion of farming land, adjacent to the house. The style of hospitable plenty in which the management of this land enabled him to furnish his table, with a moderate expence, is thus described by Young, and reminds us of the ancient times in which the country gentleman's board was proverbial for weighty simplicity. "The design of Sir Christopher Willoughby's farming is to raise every object of the consumption of a family of thirty, at home, that the climate of the country will give. He annually kills eighty sheep; and, by agreement with a neighbour, he eats his own beef. He keeps nineteen cows, for butter, milk, cream, and cheese. A productive dove-house yields an ample supply of pigeons. His ponds (having a small stream through them, and being well attended,) afford him carp, tench, and perch: carp of three to six pounds, tench one pound, perch from half a pound to two pounds weight, and to be had whenever

ever he wants them. Poultry of all sorts in great abundance. Game. His own wheat, oats, and hay: makes his own malt, and raises hops and poles. All this forms a system of family plenty, and gives the satisfaction of every thing being good of the sort, if due attention be paid to the management; and, when it is effected by little other expense than the labour and times of a farm of less than 400 acres, for the supply of so large a family, with a considerable surplus of many articles for sale, it is, in the mind of this reflecting proprietor, a proof that the system is not only pleasant, but profitable."

The *Plants*, found in Bullington hundred, most worthy of notice on account of their rarity, are *Carex Inflata*. Lesser Bladder Carex: in ponds and watery places at Ifley. *Symphytum officinale (flo. purp.)* Comfrey with a purple flower, near Wheatley Bridge. *Tordylium officinale*. Small Tordylium: on the banks between Headington and Oxford.

THAME HUNDRED

touches Buckinghamshire on the north and east, and is partly separated from Bullington on the west by the river Thame. The streams connected with the Thame are numerous, and the pasture land of this district is eminently fertile. The soil of the arable land possesses no general distinction of character; but is chiefly good; and, in some spots, is more amenable to agriculture than is the soil in any other part of the county. Thame appears to have formed a part of the hundred of Dorchester at the time of the Norman Survey. The lordship is now vested in the Earl of Abingdon.

Thame hundred consists of the market town of THAME; the hamlet of *Aswell*; the extra-parochial district, termed *Attington*; and the parishes of *Great Milton*, *Little Milton*, *Tetsworth*, and *Waterstock*.

The amount of money raised for the poor, in 1803, was 4982l.

4992l. 11s. 4d. making an average of four shillings and a halfpenny in the pound.

The town of THAME, or TAME, derives its appellation from the river of the same name, on which it is situated at that north east extremity of the county which joins Buckinghamshire. The parish contains about 4600 acres of land, and is divided into six hamlets, or liberties, termed *Old Thame, New Thame Priestend, Thame Park, Moreton,* and *North Weston.* The town of Thame, comprising the three first liberties, stands on a dry gravelly soil, gently rising from the river, and consists principally of one long and spacious street.

Dr. Stukeley places Thame among the Roman cities, and calls it Tamese. It is, at any rate, unquestionable that a Roman military road went through the town, though this was by degrees neglected in the latter times of the empire. Dr. Plot describes this place as an ancient Burgh, and the same which the Danes fortified in 921, and which was afterwards besieged and taken, with much bloodshed, by Edward the elder. But the correctness of this statement has been doubted by subsequent writers, and the place besieged by Edward is supposed to have been Temsford, in Bedfordshire. Thame, however, was a place of some consequence as early as this period; for we find that Wulfere, King of Mercia, granted a charter "in the vill called Thama;" and, in the year 970, Osketyl, Archbishop of York, is known to have died here. In 1010, when the Danes overran these parts of England, this town, among others, suffered severely.

The Norman record describes the manor of Thame as a part of the Bishop of Lincoln's extensive possessions in this county: "The bishop himself holds *Tame.* There are sixty hides there. He has twenty-seven of these hides in his farm; and his knights have the others. There is land to thirty-four ploughs. Now, in the demesne, five ploughs and five bondmen; and twenty-seven villanes, with twenty-six bordars, have nineteen ploughs. There is a mill of twenty shillings. For meadows sixty shillings. It was worth in King Edward's time twenty pounds; when received sixteen

sixteen pounds; now thirty pounds." By a second entry in Domesday, it appears, that of "land belonging to the manor twenty-three hides, besides villanes, bondmen, and bordars, were held of the bishop by certain individuals, the whole worth twenty pounds."

"About Alexander, Bishop of Lincoln's time," says Leland, "the town of Tame, being the king's, was given for rent, in fee-farm to the Bishop of Lincoln and his successors." To the patronage of the bishops the town was indebted for numerous advantages. By them the church was erected, the vicarage and a prebend endowed, and a neighbouring abbey reared. At their request the fairs and market were granted; and Henry Lexington, bishop in the reign of Henry III. rendered an important service, by turning the high road through the middle of the town. Thame continued in the hands of the bishops of Lincoln until the reign of Edward VI. when the see was dismembered of so many of its valuable possessions. Sir John Williams, afterwards created Lord Williams of Thame, speedily obtained a grant of the estate, and he dying without male issue, Thame became the property of his daughter, Margery, who married Henry, Lord Norreys, of Ricot; and, being afterwards carried by a female in marriage to the family of Bertie, it became vested in the Earls of Abingdon, the present possessors.

During the civil wars of the seventeenth century Thame was unhappily surrounded by garrisons of the contending parties, and, consequently, experienced its full share of the miseries of the period. At this time Antony Wood, the Oxford antiquary, was a student in the town; and he has recorded, with surprising minuteness, several of the skirmishes to which he was witness. We are induced to extract a part of his narrative, as it is not only locally interesting, but presents a vivid portraiture of the confusion which pervaded the country in those eventful times.

"On the 27th of January, 1644, Colonel Thomas Blagge, governor of Wallingford Castle, roving about the country very early, with a troop of stout horsemen, consisting of seventy or

 eighty

eighty at most, met with a party of Parliamenteers, or rebels, of at least 200, at Long Crendon, about a mile northward from Thame, which 200 belonged to the garrison of Aylesbury, and, being headed by a Scot called Colonel Crafford, who, as I think, was governor of the garrison there, they pretended that they were looking out quarters for them. Colonel Blagge fought with, and made them run, till his men, following them too eagerly, were overpowered by multitudes that afterwards came in to their assistance: at which time he himself, with his stout Captain Walter, (they two only,) fought against a great many of the rebels for a long time together, in which encounter the brave colonel behaved himself as manfully with his sword as ever man did, slashing and beating so many fresh rebels with such courage and dexterity, that he would not stir till he had brought off his own men, whereof the rebels killed but two, (not a man more,) though they took sixteen, who staid too long behind. Captain Walter had six rebels upon him; and, according to his custom, fought it out so gallantly, that he brought himself off with his colonel, and got home safe to Wallingford, with all their men except eighteen. Colonel Blagge was cut over the face, and had some other hurts, but not dangerous.

"After the action was concluded at Crendon, and Blagge and his men forced to fly homewards, they took part of Thame in their way; and A. Wood and his fellow-sojourners being then at dinner in the parlour with some strangers, they were all alarmed with their approach; and, by that time they could run out of the house to look over the pale that parts it from the common road, they saw a great number of horsemen posting towards Thame over Crendon-bridge, about a stone's cast from their house, (being the only house on that road before you come into Thame,*) and, in the head of them, was Blagge, with a bloody face, and his party, with Captain Walter following him. The number, as was then guessed by A. Wood, and others of the family, was fifty, or more, and

* This house still remains, and appears to have scarcely experienced any alteration since the above period.

and they all rode under the said pale, and close by the house. They did not ride in order, but each made shift to be foremost; and one of them riding upon a shelving ground opposite to the door his horse slipped, fell upon one side, and threw the rider (a lusty man) in A. Wood's sight. Colonel Crafford, who was well horsed, at a pretty distance before his men in pursuit, held a pistol to him, but the trooper crying out 'Quarter!' the rebels came up, rifled him, and took him and his horse away with them. Crafford rode on without touching him, and ever and anon he would be discharging his pistol at some of the fagg end of Blagge's horse, who rode through the west end of Thame, called Priest End, leading towards Rycote."

After relating the particulars of another skirmish, Wood says: "This alarm and onset were made by the cavaliers from Oxon, about break of day on Sunday, Sept. 7th, before any of the rebels were stirring. But by the alarm taken from the sentinel that stood at that end of the town leading to Oxon, many of them came out of their beds into the market-place without their doublets, whereof Adj. General Pride was one, who fought in his shirt. Some that were quartered near the church (as, in the vicar's house where A. Wood then sojourned, and others,) fled into the church, (some with their horses also,) and, going to the top of the tower, would be peeping thence to see the cavaliers run into the houses where they quartered, to fetch away their goods."

The following passage in Mercurius Rusticus is possibly the exaggeration of a party:—"While the Rebels' army lay at Thame, sending out parties, by chance they lighted upon some of the king's soldiers; and, amongst others, there was one, who, touched in conscience for so grievous a sin as lifting up his hand against his lawful sovereign the Lord's anointed, forsook the Rebels' army, and was entertained in his Majesty's pay; and, being in their power, they resolved instantly to hang him. Nothing would serve to hang him on but the sign-post of the King's Head, (now the Nag's Head,) in Thame. After being turned off

for some time a barbarous villain stepped up to him, and, having lifted him up, he turned the dying man's face towards the King's Head itself, and jeeringly said, "Nay, Sir! you must speak one word with the king before you go. You are blindfold, and he cannot see, and by-and-by you shall both come down together."

The church of Thame is a large and handsome structure, of the cruciform description, and comprises a nave, two aisles, a north and south transept, and a chancel. From the intersection rises a fine embattled tower,* supported by four massy pillars. The entrance is by a stone porch, ornamented with a canopied niche, now vacant, but which formerly contained a statue of St. Mary, to whom the building is dedicated. The aisles are separated from the nave by five pillars, forming as many Gothic arches. The interior, though of noble proportions, is injudiciously arranged. The pews are mean, and inconveniently disposed; and several irregular galleries destroy the harmony of architectural effect comprehended in the original design. This church contains numerous sepulchral memorials of families once important in the neighbourhood. Among these the following demand notice: inarched, beneath a window of the north transept, is the grey marble tomb of Geoffrey Dormer, whose epitaph states that he was a merchant of the staple of the town of Calais, and his two wives. On the upper stone are the effigies, in brass, of the three persons interred. Under the one wife are five sons and eight daughters; and under the second are seven sons and five daughters. Over the head of the first wife are the arms of the staple of Calais. Over that of the second three fleurs de lys. At the feet of the first wife is a monogram. This Geoffrey Dormer resided in a mansion at Thame, not taken down till the year 1802, termed Place-house; and from him descended the various families of Dormer, who formerly resided in this county and in Buckinghamshire.

In the south transept, called Quatremain's Aisle, are two ancient

* On the tower is the date 1138, the year in which the neighbouring abbey was erected.

cient tombs of the family of Quatremain, who formerly possessed considerable property in Thame, and several neighbouring parishes. One of these is composed entirely of dark grey marble, with plain sides. On the upper stone were formerly the effigies of two men in armour, with swords and spurs, and two women, together with several coats of arms. Round the verge was an inscription. Most of these brasses are now torn away and lost, but they were perfect in the seventeenth century; and Antony Wood has preserved the whole of the inscription, from which it appears that the monument was erected to Thomas Quatremain, of North Weston, Katherine his wife, (descended from the Greys of Rotherfield,) and Thomas, their son. The date was 1342.

The second tomb is more perfect. The slab is of dark grey marble, and the sides of freestone, well adorned with Gothic work. On the top are the effigies of two men (the one of a youthful character) and a woman. The men are in rich armour, with swords and spurs; on the verge of the stone is the following inscription:

O certyn Deth, that now hast overthrow
Richard Quatremayne, Squier, and Sibil his wife, that lie here full lowe,
That with royal Princes of Councel was true and wise famed,
To Richard Duke of York, and after with his sone, Kynge Edward the IIIIth
named;
That foundid in the Church of Tame a Chantrie, VI pore men and a Fraternity
In the worship of St. Cristofer to be relieved in Perpetuity.
They that of their Almys for ther sowles a paternoster and ave devoutly wull
say,
Of holy Fadurs is granted them p̄don of dayes forty, alwey.
Which Richard and Sibill out of this worlde passid in the
Yere of our Lord MCCCCLX. Upon their sowles
Jhu have mercy alwy.

There were many coats upon the tomb, only a few of which now remain.* The chantry founded by the above Richard Quatremayne

* The vault beneath was lately inspected, and was found to contain only a heap of rubbish and bones, piled in one corner.

tremayne was in this transept. In the south east corner is a stone figure of St. Christopher, and below is a small niche. The altar at which masses were performed for the souls of the founder and his family, was, probably, under. No remains of the hospital, in which, according to the epitaph, a brotherhood were to be "relieved in perpetuity" could be seen even in Camden's time.

The lancet windows of the chancel evince its antiquity. On the outer side is a carving, in stone, of the arms of Adrian Barwis, prebendary of Thame in 1480, who probably repaired and ornamented this part of the structure. The interior of the chancel was repaired by Lord Viscount Weymouth, the impropriator, in 1707. The principal monument here is that of John Lord Williams, of Thame. On this very rich altar-tomb of marble are recumbent figures of his lordship and his first wife, their heads reposing on cushions, and, contrary to the usual custom, turned to the west. At the feet of the man is a greyhound; at those of the lady is a unicorn. The sides are abundantly adorned with the quarterings of his own, and the different families with which he was connected.*

On the south side of the chancel is the monument of Sir John Clerke, of North Weston, who died on the 5th of April, 1539. There is an effigy, in brass, of the deceased, kneeling; and, by an inscription below, he is described as having "taken prisoner Louys of Orleans, Duke of Longueville, &c. on the 16th of August, in the 5th yer of the reigne of the noble and victorious King Henry VIII."

The arms of Lord Weymouth, who repaired the chancel in 1707, are placed in stained glass in the east window. There are now no other arms in any of the windows; but A. Wood has preserved an account of many existing when he examined the church Thame

* Lord Williams left eight shillings *per annum* for the purpose of keeping this monument in due preservation; but his provident bequest has proved unavailing. The whole is in a state of dilapidation; a circumstance the more to be regretted, as the sculpture is remarkably good.

Thame is a vicarage endowed, and has annexed to it the churches, or chapels, of Tetsworth and Sydenham in this county, and that of Towersey in Bucks.

A little south-west of the church are the remains of the Prebendal-house of Thame. The tithes of this parish, as well as those of the other parishes whose churches are annexed, were in the hands of the bishops of Lincoln, by one of whom they were granted to the abbey of Eynsham, but remained with that abbey only a short time, for the validity of the grant being questioned by a succeeding bishop, the abbey accepted other property in lieu of them; and, in 1241, Bishop Grostehead erected a prebend in the church of Thame, and endowed it with the impropriation and advowson of that church. This prebend was annexed to the cathedral of Lincoln, and so continued till the reign of Edward VI. when it was surrendered by George Heneage, the last prebendary, to the crown. The value was then 82l. 12s. 3d. It was very shortly afterwards granted to Sir John Thynne, an ancestor of the Marquis of Bath, and Lord Carteret, in whose family it continued till 1788, when it was sold by the latter nobleman to the trustees of Thomas Blackall, Esq. and is now the property of John Blackall, Esq.

The remains of the prebendal building evince considerable former grandeur, and consist of nearly three sides of a quadrangle. Among other rooms, a large refectory is still distinguishable. The chapel is likewise preserved, and contains some traces of the altar, and the stone-work of a handsome Gothic window. On three sides was constructed a deep moat. The fourth side was watered by the river Thame. The whole of these fragmentary buildings are now used for sordid purposes, as appendages to the parsonage farm.

By John Lord Williams, of Thame, were founded a school, once of much celebrity, and some alms-houses. The latter he erected in his life-time, (as it is supposed on the site of the hospital founded by Richard Quatremain,) for five decayed trades men, and one woman, of Thame.

By will he vested in his executors certain rectories and parsonages in Bucks and Northamptonshire, to find, and maintain with the profits thereof, a schoolmaster and usher. He likewise bequeathed some lands for the augmentation of the alms-houses, and for other purposes, tending to benefit the poor of the town. Shortly after the demise of the noble testator his executors erected the present school and house for a master and usher; and, in the seventeenth of Queen Elizabeth, they selected the warden and college of St. Mary of Winchester, Oxford, (New College,) to be trustees of the establishment, and to apply the rents according to the intention of his lordship. From the income, then amounting to 57l. 9s. 5d. the stipend of 26l. 13s. 4d. was appropriated to the master, and 13l. 6s. 8d. to the usher. The annual sum of 7l. 4s. 9d. was given to the alms-men, and a further sum to provide them annually with a cloak or gown each, which was to be of lyon tawny cloth, of Reading manufacture, of 6s. 8d. the broad yard. To the deed of conveyance is annexed an ordination, or composition, as it is there called, regulating the election of the master and usher, and the education of the pupils. In respect to the latter, all children might attend the school, on the payment of certain small sums, from which the founder's kin, the children of his tenants, and those of the inhabitants of Thame, are exempted. The college, on a vacancy, nominates two persons, who must be graduates of the University of Oxford, to the Earl of Abingdon, who, as heir of Henry Lord Norreys, (who married the daughter of Lord Williams,) has the appointment of the master.

The house is a large and handsome building, situated near the church, and the school-room is of noble dimensions, and of very appropriate form. Through the whole of the seventeenth century this establishment maintained a high character, and afforded education to some of the most distinguished youth in the neighbourhood.* But the career of its prosperity is now at a pause. The master

* Antony Wood, speaking of his school-days, says, the master (William Bart)

master has sunk into age and infirmity: the school-forms are entirely vacant: but the building is yet in excellent preservation; and, though the salary be small, the annexed opportunities appear so considerable, that, probably, a race yet unborn may restore the seminary to its ancient lustre.

There is likewise a Charity-school of a more humble description, established from the benefactions of Montague, second Earl of Abingdon; Mr. Woolaston, late an apothecary of Thame; and Mr. Matthew Crews. The united revenues produce as much as 30l. *per annum*; and the number of boys instructed is twenty-five. The town has also the benefit of other charities, arising from the rents and interest of various benefactions, the revenues of which are distributed, according to the wills of the respective donors, in bread, clothes, and in the apprenticing of poor children. These, in the whole, amount to about 100l. *per annum*.

The Market-place of Thame is desirably commodious; but the market-house, or town-hall, is only an indifferent building. Thame has a weekly market, and two annual fairs. The former is held on Tuesday, and considerable quantities of corn by sample, together with large numbers of cattle, are sold at it. This market possesses some antiquity; for we find that the prior of Bilford was restrained, in 1302, from holding a market at Haddenham, the adjoining parish in Buckinghamshire, to the prejudice of that of Thame. The chief fair is on Old Michaelmas-Day, for the sale of horses and cattle, and the hiring of servants.

The number of houses is 459. The population, in 1801, amounted to 2293; and, in 1811, it was returned at 2328. Of this population it is an alarming fact that 1300 are paupers, and actually receive relief from the parish! There is a workhouse capable of containing from sixty to seventy persons, part of which was formerly a county bridewell, and was purchased by the

Bart) and his wife were more kind to the Parliamentarian than the royal forces, which he attributes to "their acquaintance with the *Ingoldsbys* and *Hampdens*, and other puritanical and factious families, who, while young, had been mostly bred in the school."

the parish in 1790. But the whole is by no means adapted for the purpose, either in situation or extent of ground, though great care and judgment are exercised by the superintendant. The greater part of the relief is consequently granted out of the house; and, by the return of the expenses attending the maintenance of the poor in 1811, those of this parish amounted to 3686l. a sum exceeding the expenditure of any other parish in the county.*

There is no manufacture carried on here, except a little lace, which is of an indifferent fabric, and made by women and children; the great bulk of the poor have, therefore, no employment except that of husbandry. Among other oppressive disadvantages, Thame suffers much from a want of firing. A few years back the town and neighbourhood were chiefly supplied with fuel from the beech woods of the Chiltern Hills: but this was a source not calculated for long duration. Since the Oxford and Coventry Canal has been formed, coals are obtained from Oxford; but they are procured at a heavy expense, owing to the necessity of thirteen miles of land carriage. They are now (March, 1813,) 2s. 9d. per hundred. A canal to cross this part of the country appears essential to the comfort and prosperity of the neighbourhood. A line was surveyed in 1810, to unite the Berks and Wilts canal at Abingdon with the Grand Junction at Marsworth, above Aylesbury. But several powerful interests apprehended partial injury; and the scheme, so fertile in promise of extensive benefit, was consequently defeated. The town is, at present, a depot for prisoners of war on parole. For the last eight years about 170 have usually resided here.

In the first year of Queen Mary Sir John Williams, Knt. lord chamberlain to that queen, was created *Baron* of *Thame*: but the title expired in his person, as he died without male issue, leaving

* From the information of intelligent natives, it appears that the money raised in aid of the poor at Thame, for the present year, will be upwards of 4000l. an intolerable burthen, and one that cries loudly for some reformation in the poor laws.

leaving two daughters, who married into the families of Norris and Wenman.

In the town of Thame were born* George Etherydge, a physician of some note; and that great ornament of jurisprudence, the Lord Chief Justice Holt.

George Etherydge studied at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, and was admitted a fellow of that society in the year 1539. He was afterwards appointed king's professor of Greek; but, in the reign of Elizabeth, was ejected on account of his religious opinions. He then practised as a physician at Oxford, and likewise superintended the education of several young gentlemen, the sons of Catholics. He appears to have been a man of taste as well as of learning; for there are some musical compositions and Latin poems by him still extant in manuscript. Etherydge died about 1588.

Sir John Holt was born in 1642. After passing some years at Abingdon school, he became a gentleman commoner of Oriel College, Oxford; and, in 1658, entered of Gray's Inn. When called to the bar, he applied with so much industry to the study of the common law, that he soon became one of the most eminent barristers of that era. As a proof of which it may be sufficient to observe, that when the Earl of Danby was, in the year 1678, impeached in Parliament, the Lords named Holt as one of his counsel; but the whole nomination of the Lords was prohibited by the Commons, in a vote which was posted round Westminster-Hall and the Parliament-House.

In 1685 he received the distinction of knighthood from James II. and was made recorder of the city of London. He held this situation for about a year and a half, and forfeited it because he would not expound a particular law according to the wish of the king.

* It may be observed, that *James Figg*, noted for his public exhibitions with the broad sword at the early part of the last century, was likewise a native of Thame. A humourous account of his exhibitions is given by Addison, and his portrait is to be seen in the second plate of the Rake's Progress, by Hogarth.

cated to St. Mary, July 21, 1138*. The monks retained their lands in Ottingdon, and received very considerable augmentations from fresh benefactors, which were confirmed to them by several royal charters and Papal bulls. At the Dissolution the society consisted of an abbot and sixteen monks. The annual revenue, according to Tanner, was 256l. 14s. 7d. The abbey, with the whole of its possessions, was surrendered to the Crown in the 31st of Henry VIII. by Robert Kyng, the last abbot, who, for his ready compliance, was, on the creation of the see of Oxford, named its first bishop.

In the reign of Edward VI. the abbey, park, and lands, were given to the Protector Somerset; but, on his disgrace, coming again to the Crown, Sir John (afterwards Lord) Williams obtained them, with the other abbey estates in the manors of Moreton, Attingdon, and Sydenham. From Lord Williams they came to his daughter Isabel, who married Sir Francis Wenman, an ancestor of Lord Viscount Wenman, in whose family they now remain. On the death of the late Lord Wenman, in 1800, without issue, these estates descended to his nephew, William Richard Wykham, Esq. whose daughter and heir is the present owner.

On the site of a part of the abbey the present mansion-house was erected by Philip, the father of the late Lord Wenman. The building is of stone, and has in front a handsome flight of steps, with two ascents. In the centre is a pediment, on the tympanum of which are placed the arms of Wenman. Considerable fragments of the abbey still remain, and these are protected and adjoined by the modern elevation. In pictorial beauty they amply repay

* According to William of Newburgh, as quoted by Camden, the Bishop raised this monastery "to wipe off the odium which he had contracted by his extravagance in building castles." But his taste for architecture had not been previously confined to castellated structures. In 1124, he rebuilt the cathedral of Lincoln, which had been consumed by fire. His extensive generosity obtained him the name of *Alexander the benevolent*. The castles erected by this bishop were those of Banbury, Sleaford, and Newark. He died in 1147.

repay the fostering power which shelters them. The turrets are in a state of venerable and gentle decay, and the ivy throws a lovely screen over the now useless windows.

Near the house is the ancient chapel, a plain but neat structure, now only used as a burial place for the family. In a buttress at one end, somewhat awkwardly placed, is the niche formerly occupied by a statue of the patron saint. From a ditch on the west side of the house was dug, some time back, a stone coffin, with a head-place, which now lies, overgrown with moss, on the outer side of the chapel. Among the funereal records in this building is an elegant mural tablet, by Westmacott, erected to the memory of the last Lord Wenman by his nephew, Philip Thomas Wykham, Esq.

The park contains about two hundred and twenty acres, and is skirted with woodland. The bosom of this domain is rather flat, but has received all the aid which the professional skill of Brown could bestow, and is still improving. A conservatory has lately been added to the garden-embellishments.

It was in the family of Lord Wenman that Dr. Seth Ward found an asylum, when he was expelled Sidney College, in the time of the Rebellion. While he was so situated his skill in mathematics procured him the astronomy professorship at Oxford; but when the mastership of Jesus College was sought for him of Cromwell the suit was thus negatived: "I hear that he is a deserving man, but I know that he is a malignant." At the Restoration Dr. Ward was promoted to the Bishopric of Salisbury.

North Weston, distant one mile, on the south-west from the town of Thame, formed a part of the possession of the Quatremains. It was, subsequently, for many years in the family of Clerke, several of whom represented the county of Oxford in Parliament. The estate was sold about the year 1745, by the Clerkes, to Charles, Duke of Marlborough, and now belongs to Lord Charles Spencer. The ancient manor-house, a building of no great consideration, is still standing, and is now used as a school. A small

small contiguous chapel was taken down within the last twenty years.

The village of GREAT MILTON is situated on an eminence, and obtains from that circumstance a clean and cheerful aspect. Leland observes that there was here, "many yeres syns, as he heard say, a priore of monkes, a selle, as one told him, to Abbingdon. The house of the priore was, by likelihood, wher the farmer's house is now, hard by the chirch yard, for ther appear fundations of great buildings." This priory was granted to Richard de Louches, and is a prebend of Lincoln.

In Great Milton church is a black marble tablet, erected to the memory of Mrs. Elizabeth Wilkinson, late wife to Dr. Henry Wilkinson, principal of Magdalen Hall, Oxford. She died December 8, 1654. After a long and quaint inscription are these lines:

Here lye mother and babe, both without sins,
Next birth will make her and her infant, twins.

The register of this parish commences in 1550.

At LITTLE MILTON was found an ancient British coin, of which Dr. Plot has given an engraving in the Natural History of this county, "adorned with two faces on the obverse, and an ill-shapen horse, with a wheel beneath him, on the reverse." This Dr. Plot supposes to be a coin of "Prasutagus, King of the Iceni, mentioned by Tacitus; and the ground of this conjecture he takes from the reverse of the horse and wheel under him, most times found on the coins of Boadicea (Queen of the above Prasutagus) where her name is stamped on them. The horse and wheel, perhaps, intimated the great strength of the nation to lie in their war-chariots; or, having by this time learned of the Romans the necessity and convenience of making military ways and other passages for carriages through the woods and marshy grounds, the horse and wheel might be put on the coin in memory of that fact."

LEWKNOR HUNDRED

joins the hundred of Thame on the south-east, and is partly in the Chiltern division. Much beech wood prevails among the hills. The lowlands were, till lately, in a ruder state than is usual in this county; but several inclosures have recently taken place, which promise equal advantage to the aspect and resources of the district. The soil is various, but generally productive. The Ikeneild Street enters near the village of Chinnor, and marks, as it proceeds, the commencement of the Chiltern elevations.

Lewknor hundred does not possess any market town, and consists of the following parishes and liberties: *Adwell*; *Aston-Rowant*; *Britwell-salome*; *Chalford*; *Chinnor*; *Crowell*; *Emmington*; *Henton*; *Kingston-blount*; *Lewknor*, with Lewknor-up-hill; *Postcomb*; *Sydenham*, and *Stoken-church*.

The money raised for the poor, in the year 1803, was 4230l. 5s. 10d. making an average of six shillings and twopence halfpenny in the pound.

Lewknor, which affords a name to this division, is a pleasing village at the base of the Chiltern hills, composed of a considerable number of decent peasants' cottages, intermingled with some agricultural abodes of a better order. At a farm called Studderidge, in Lewknor parish, some workmen digging the foundation of an out-house, in 1738, found broad gold pieces of James I. and Charles I. to the amount of one hundred pounds, buried in an earthen pot. A proof of the dismay spread through these rural precincts by the horrors of the civil war.

Near Lewknor is *Nethercot*, the seat of Edward Jodrell, Esq.*, a spacious brick building, but placed on a low and marshy spot. Mr. Jodrell's family have long possessed considerable property in

* Marked in the list of seats as the residence of Richard Paul Jodrell, Esq. since deceased.

Lewknor parish, which came by an intermarriage with the family of Rolls.

STOKEN CHURCH. The word *Stoke* is, perhaps, more frequently found than any other to form, or to assist in forming, the name of a village; and literally means, according to Gibson, a stock, or log, of wood. This derivation may naturally be supposed to allude to the first constructions of the habitations in a village situated, as is this, on the summit of the Chiltern hills, and formerly surrounded by thick woods. The word church was frequently appended to the name of a place, before each parochial division possessed its separate religious edifice.

The church of this village is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, on whose anniversary there is kept a wake or fair. Before the suppression of monasteries it belonged to the priory of Wallingford, a cell of St. Alban's. The building is composed of a nave, north aisle, and chancel. About the middle of the chancel there are three steps, that lead to the table; and, on the south and north walls, are two stands for images, or tapers. On the south side of the altar, in the wall, is a recess for the sanctified water used in bestowing benedictions.

In the wall, at the end of the nave, is a square recess that looks directly up the chancel. This was probably designed for the use of penitents, who, while in a state of humiliation, were not permitted fully to participate in all the offices of religion, but were, however, indulged in this near approach, where they might hear and see the devotions of others *.

In the church are buried two of the family of Morley, who were distinguished in the wars of Edward III. and Richard II. On the north wall is a tablet commemorative of Bartholomew Tipping, Gent. founder of the Free School at Stoken church, who died in 1680.

The ancient custom of decorating graves with flowers, the symbols of fleeting mortality! has almost passed from recollection in this country, and is rapidly disappearing in most parts of Wales;

* MS. by de la Field, in Bod. Lib.

Wales; but one Thomas Stevens, a poor and aged man, who lies buried in the church-yard of this village, left a request that his son would annually dress his grave with flowers on the recurrence of St. Peter's (the wake) day; and this request was punctually complied with.

It appears that the practice of preaching by the hour-glass continued in this parish till after the year 1669; for in the churchwarden's account for that year is this article: "For mending the Parson's Glass, 2s. 6d."*

In Stoken church is a free school, founded by "Bartholomew Tipping, Gent." who bequeathed 41l. 6d. per annum for the payment of a master, and for the purposes of clothing and apprenticing poor boys.

In the year 1250, the shock of an earthquake was felt here, and through great part of the Chiltern district, which Matt. Paris "thinks the more surprising, as the soil is chalky, and closely compacted."

Several urns were discovered by some labourers, digging the foundation of a house, in 1738. The urns were about fourteen or fifteen in number, and of different sizes and shapes. Two larger than the rest were in the middle, and the others were placed confusedly around. They were composed of coarse clay and sand, and contained black mould, or ashes, and several small bones. Some of these urns were found within six inches of the surface †.

Near the Roman *Portway*, which passed through part of Stoken church, and probably led from Wycombe to Wathington and Wallingford, is an elevation, called *Beacon Hill*; the spot, no doubt, on which one of the beacons of the county was formerly placed. The Portway joins with the Ikeneild Street, in the neighbourhood of Stoken church.

* It may be here observed, that the popular saying of preaching like a parson *over his glass*, is evidently derived from the glass of sand, not that of exhilarating liquor.

† MS. by De la Field.

WORMSLEY, or WALMSLEY, the mansion of John Fane, Esq. is seated on one of the highest points of this variable district. The Wormsley estate was long possessed by the Scropes, and afforded a residence to A. Scrope, Esq. one of the high court of justice which condemned Charles I.; for which, on the Restoration, he was punished with death. It was remarked, that his demeanour during the time of trial was more gentlemanly * than that of the persons implicated with him in offence; but he appears to have been a fanatic of the most enthusiastical kind. At the hour of execution he said, "It is no reproach, or shame, to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, and to die in his cause, for that is it which I judge I am now going to do!"

GROVE COTTAGE, the residence of Richard Davis, Esq. is conspicuous for unostentatious elegance of architectural character. We too frequently see ponderous domes and decorated corridores assist in the composition of structures, whimsically denominated cottages by their lordly owners. The present building is of a different description. Neat, commodious, and simple, it harmonizes with the rural scenery spread around, and speaks, through every feature, of that which the ancient country gentlemen of England held most dear, comfort.

The following *Plants* are found in the woods near Stokenchurch:—*Helleborus viridis*, wild black Hellebore; *Hordeum sylvaticum*, wood barley, seen on a chalky soil; *Monotropa Hypopythis*, bird's-nest, smelling like primrose roots; *Pyrola rotundifolia*, common winter-green; *Serapias latifolia*, wild, broad leaved Hellebore; *Serapias longifolia, grandiflora*, white flowered, bastard, Hellebore; and *Triticum caninum*, dog's grass, with awns.

PIRTON

* The malevolence of party-historians descends to the most minute particulars. The writers on the side of the court describe Scrope as being in person mean and deformed. On the contrary, De la Field says, "I have talked with some that knew him, and they affirm that he was a proper and handsome gentleman." MS. &c.

PIRTON HUNDRED

lies to the south-west of Lewknor, and is divided nearly into equal parts by the Ikeneild Street. The natural division is as positive as the artificial. To the south-east of the Roman road is a succession of hills, the basis of which is chalk, while on the north-west the country is comparatively flat, and the soil miscellaneous, but usually inclining to a clay. In most places the elevations immediately above the Ikeneild way, in its whole progress across the county, consist of ranges of meagre Down-land, chiefly used as sheep-walks.

This hundred contains one market town, Watlington, and the parishes, liberties, and hamlets, of *Assendon; Clare; Golder; Greenfield; Pirton,* with the liberty of Christmas Common; *Pusshill; Shirbourn; Standhill; Stoke-talmage; Warmscomb; South-Weston;* and *Wheatfield.*

The sum raised for the use of the poor in 1803, was 3295l. 19s. 3½d. producing an average of 3s. 9d. in the pound.

The town of WATLINGTON is observed by Plot "to be of no small antiquity, provided its age do but answer its etymologie; for by its name it seems to have been an old British city, which, according to *Strabo,* were nothing else but groves, fenced about with trees cut down and laid cross one another, within which they built sheds both for themselves and their cattle; which manner of fence the Saxons after called *Crates,* hurdles, or *Wattles.*" At the period of the Norman Survey the manor of Watlington (styled *Watelintone* in Domesday) was held of the king by Robert de Oilgi, the distinguished favourite on whom William, among other gifts, bestowed the barony of Oxford.* The

 estate

* He was one of the most powerful men raised to affluence by the triumph of the Norman invaders, and was married to Aldith, only daughter of Wigod de Walengeford. "In the expedition against England Robert de Oilgi brought over with him Roger de Ivery, a fellow-adventurer, and sworn brother,

estate so held is thus described in the record: "There are eight hides there. Land to eleven ploughs. Of this land three hides are inland, and therein two ploughs and four bondmen; and twenty-two villanes, with five bordars, have eleven ploughs. There are two mills of ten shillings and eight-pence. There are four acres of meadow, and eleven acres of pasture. Wood one mile and half long, and half a mile broad. It was worth in King Edward's time, and afterwards, six pounds; now ten pounds."

Watlington is a small town, situate between the two high roads leading from London to Oxford, and distant about sixteen miles from the latter city, and forty-four from the metropolis. The streets are narrow, and the houses, with a few exceptions, mean and ill-built.* The nearest navigable stream is at the distance of six miles; a circumstance fatally adverse to the prosperity of the place. There is no staple manufacture of any consequence. The making of lace, however, prevails to some extent, and forms the chief employment of the labouring females. There is a school expressly for the purpose of teaching this art, which is usually attended by from forty to fifty pupils. In addition to the remoteness of water-conveyance, the badness of the neighbouring roads, which are, perhaps, the worst in the county, acts prejudicially on commercial speculation. But the spirit of the

ther, for they had mutually engaged by oath to be sharers of the same fortune; and, according to this compact, when the said Robert de Oilgi had two honours given him, beside the estate which came by his wife, he freely gave one of those honours to the said Roger de Ivery."—Ken. Paroch. Antiq.

* The houses are generally built with brick; but many of the inner partition walls are formed by a kind of wicker-work, resembling a wattled, or flake hurdle, against which mortar, or mud, has been thrown, until a due thickness was acquired. This mode of building was formerly usual throughout the whole Chiltern country, so prolific of beech; but, in this instance, it forms a curious coincidence with the name of the town. The more ancient part of Watlington (of which no fragment now remains) was on the north side of the church; and it may be observed, that the buildings last taken down in that division were entirely composed of wattles and mud.

the inhabitants appears to be little depressed by these repulsive circumstances. A bank has been established within these few years; and efforts are gradually making to meliorate the chill and gloomy aspect of the principal avenues.

The town stands about half a mile north by west of the Ikeneild Street, and is watered on the south side by a brook, rising in the vicinity, which now works, within the distance of two miles and and a half from its source, four corn-mills. There is a weekly market on Saturdays, first granted to Roger Bigod, Earl of Norfolk, in the reign of Richard I. But this market is thinly, though respectably, attended; and the business of the day is invariably conducted in the parlours of the principal inn. There are, likewise, two annual fairs. The magistrates hold a petty sessions usually once in a fortnight, during the winter, but in summer not so often.

The manor of Watlington was given by Henry III. in 1231, to his brother, Richard Earl of Cornwall. By Edward II. it was granted in fee to Piers Gaveston. On the disgrace of Gaveston it again reverted to the Crown, and was granted by Edward III. to Sir Nicholas De la Beeke, who obtained permission, in 1338, to build a spacious castle, some traces of which were discoverable about a century back *. The building stood on a slightly-elevated spot to the south-east of the chancel of the church, and it may yet be perceived that the structure was encompassed by a moat. King Charles I. in the fourth year of his reign, by letters patent under the great seal, granted and confirmed the manor of Watlington unto four citizens of London, who, in the following year (1629) sold it to Edmund Symeon, of Pyrton, Esq. †, and Thomas Adeane, of Chalgrove, Gent. Soon after this period it became so divided and parcelled out, that, in the year 1664, there were about fifty persons participating in the manorial rights; and, previous to the enclosure of the parish, which took place in

* Rawlinson's MSS. Bod. Lib.

† Whose daughter was married to the celebrated Hampden.

1809. the shares of the manor were sixty-four and a half in number.

In the centre of the town is the market-house, a substantial brick building, erected by Thomas Stonor, Esq. in the year 1664. The same benefactor, likewise, founded, and endowed with ten pounds *per annum*, a grammar-school for ten boys. According to the will of the founder the master was to be a graduate in one of the Universities; but imperative circumstances have long caused this article to be dispensed with. Four boys have been added to the original number, and the whole are taught in a commodious room above the market-house, in which are, likewise, held the courts leet and baron of the manor.

The church is a respectable ancient building, remote from the main part of the town on the north-west. In the chancel are several neat monuments, and the handsome burial-place of the Horne family. Sufficient lands and tenements have been left by will for the repairs of the church, without any parish rate for that purpose; and there have also been considerable sums bequeathed for the use of the poor, which are all regularly and well applied. Previous to the Reformation, the abbot and canons of Osney were patrons, to whom the church was appropriated in 1263, by the Bishop of Lincoln. In this parish was formerly a chapel, founded by the lord of the manor of Watcomb; but, on a complaint made by the abbot and canons of Osney, Pope Urban III. dissolved it. No traces can now be discovered of the site occupied by this structure.

The register commences in 1635. At an early period of the Rebellion the Rev. Ralph Wells, vicar, was ejected from the living, and illegally kept out for many years by the fanatical part of the inhabitants, who appear to have constituted a considerable majority.* During this time he resided at Piddington, in

* The following quotation displays a singular fancy which took possession of some of the least informed natives in the seventeenth century:—" At the town of Watlington I was told of a sort of sectaries perhaps never heard of in the

in Oxfordshire; and, by the suffrage of the inhabitants of that place, supplied their church until 1661, when, with the restoration of national good order, he resumed the functions of his vicarage. Many instances of marriage by the lay power occur from 1654 to 1657. The following entries exhibit the mode of solemnising these contracts:

"Publications, 1656.

"Coun. Oxon.

"Publication was made of a marriage agreed upon between William Hinde, of Wallingford, in the county of Berks, and Elizabeth Clarke, of Crowmarsh, in the parish of Newnham, in the county of Oxford, in the public market-place in Watlington, in the county of Oxford, three several market-days, viz. the 17th, 24th, and 31st days of January, 1656, and no exception was made against the same intended marriage."

"Memorandum.

"Coun. Oxon.

"That a marriage was solemnized on the two and twentieth day of December, in the year of our Lord God one thousand six hundred fifty and six, at Watlington, in

the world before; which, if so, is as strange as the thing itself, for one would have thought there could have been nothing so absurd in religion but what must needs have been embraced already. These by the rest of the people are called *Anointers*, from the ceremony which they use of anointing all persons before they admit them into their church, for which they alledge the verses of St. James, '*Is there any sick among you* (which, it seems, they account all people to be but themselves,) *let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him*, anointing *him with oil, in the name of the Lord, and the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up, and if he have committed sins they shall be forgiven him.*'—Which *elders* among them are some poor tradesmen of the town, and the *oil* they use that commonly sold in the shops, with which the proselyte being smeared over, and fired with zeal, he presently becomes a new light of this church."—Nat. Hist. p. 204.

in the said county, between Augustine House and Eliz. Cerny, both of Rotherfield Grays in the said county, by John Ovy, Esq. one of the justices of the peace for the said county,* there being present Robert House, John House, and Martha House. In testimony whereof the said John Ovy hath set his hand the day and year aforesaid.

"John Ovy."

In the year 1675, Eleanor, the wife of Henry Devon, of Watlington, produced four children at a birth, a circumstance supposed by her credulous neighbours to prognosticate a renewal of civil war, and fresh evils of pestilence. The children soon died; and Dr. Plot, who notices the circumstance at some length, very gravely reminds his reader that (thanks be to God!) neither health, peace, nor plenty, was affected by the unusual fecundity of their parent.

There are several institutions in this little town which evince the active good sense of the inhabitants.

In the year 1800 a Sunday-school was established for instructing the children of the poor. The master and mistress are chosen with scrupulous care; and the whole is superintended by the clergyman of the parish.†

A Benefit Society was instituted among the labouring poor and inferior tradesmen, nearly sixty years back; and this Club has been lately much strengthened by the addition of about twenty honorary members. Its leading objects are a weekly allowance to the sick and the aged benefit members, and a legacy to their widows on their decease. Besides monthly meetings among some

* This John Ovy appears to have been a fellmonger at Watlington.

† In the neighbourhood are several laudable establishments of the same description. The chief of these meet at Watlington on the morning of Whit-Tuesday, and proceed to church. After hearing a suitable sermon, the children return in procession to their respective parishes, where cakes and ale are distributed, as rewards for past, or incentives to future, good conduct.

some of the members, a general meeting takes place on the Whit-Monday of every year, when both the honorary and benefit members, accompanied by a band of music, walk in procession to the church. After an appropriate sermon they return in the same regular manner to the club-room, where they dine together, and audit the year's accounts. Perhaps no money, on a limited scale, was ever more judiciously employed in charity than that bestowed by the honorary members on this occasion; nor can the chief inhabitants of a town ever appear to more advantage than these gentlemen while walking at the head of a long procession of industrious labourers, whom they are assisting with counsel, patronage, and pecuniary contribution.

The eccentric *last will and testament* of a publican merits notice:—Robert Parslow, an inn-keeper at Watlington, in the seventeenth century, bequeathed 200l. to be laid out in land, and the rent applied to the following purposes:—on the annual recurrence of the day of his funeral, (the 19th of November,) ten shillings to the clergyman for preaching a sermon; ten shillings to the clerk for tolling the great bell from nine o'clock in the morning till sunset, sermon time excepted; and the remainder to be expended in the purchase of coats and gowns for poor persons of the town, who are to attend Divine service in their new garments. These injunctions have met with scrupulous attention; and, from the improved rent of the land, about thirty persons will be furnished with a comfortable article of dress on the ensuing anniversary. According to a tradition among the towns-people, a military chest of some value had been left at this inn-keeper's house during the civil war; and, in the confusion of the times, it remained unclaimed. The sum dedicated to religious and charitable uses they, therefore, consider a sort of expiatory offering for freedoms taken with property to which he possessed no legitimate right.

The Wesleyan Methodists and the Baptists have each a place of worship in the town; but the number of these societies is comparatively small. The Methodists were established here during the

the life of John Wesley, who occasionally preached in the open street. A substantial meeting-house has lately been erected, but not more than thirty persons are in the habit of attending it. The Baptists are scarcely so numerous; and their meetings are held in a very humble building.

According to the abstract of population returned to Parliament in 1801, the number of inhabitants was then 1276. The return of 1811 makes the total number 1150. The houses for the reception of this decreasing population are in number 237. The poor are numerous; and the rates levied for their assistance average at from eight to nine shillings in the pound.

On *Britwell-Hill*, about two furlongs east of the Ikeneild-street, some remains of trenches shew the site of an ancient encampment.

Not more than half a mile distant from Watlington is one of the most complete agricultural establishments to be found in the county. The whole of the very extensive farm-yard is encompassed by buildings covered with slate, and presents to the remote beholder the mimic spectacle of a new and comely village. This noble range of buildings was erected by William Hayward, Esq, and was completed under his immediate inspection, in the small term of one year. The guiding principle appears to have been eminently correct. To produce utility on the simplest and most scientific plan has been the primary object; and, where ornament is employed, it springs from a combination of circumstances tending to advance the interests of rural economy. Taking Nature for his preceptress, Mr. Hayward has invariably endeavoured to produce the needful effect with the least possible effort or expense; and has contrived to render one channel conducive to various salutary purposes. An establishment like this must necessarily be a pleasing feature in topographical delineation. The decorated agricultural villas of the lordly mock the husbandman's eye with a parade of *domestic* conveniences for oxen, pigs, and poultry, which, though they may appear enviably commodious, are formed on a system too costly for imi-

 tation.

tation. *Here* nothing difficult of attainment is presented to notice, and the whole is the result of active ingenuity, rising superior to the shackles of prejudice. This very praise-worthy instance of the benefits to be derived from the union of science with the chaste simplicity of agricultural pursuits has been favoured with notice by the pleasing pen of Miss Mitford, who, in a poem, intituled "Watlington-Hill," thus alludes to the agreeable spot:—

'Twere hard to sing thy varying charms,
Thou cottage, mansion, village, farm,
Thou beautiful epitome
Of all that useful is and rare;
Where Comfort sits with smiling air,
And laughing Hospitality;
'Twere hard to sing—and harder still
The dearer charms those halls that fill.

The surrounding country is celebrated for coursing; and many have been the triumphs of greyhounds, (whose pedigree stands scrupulously recorded,) on the downs once trodden by Roman legions, with trains of tributary Britons in attendance, who grew proud of slavery while they found that a knowledge of those generous arts which bestow dignity on existence, was imparted as a recompence for subjection. On the hill contiguous to Mr. Hayward's residence an obelisk was shaped, about fifty years back, at the expense of Edward Horne, Esq. by incisions in the turf. This, from the chalky nature of the soil, is a conspicuous object for many miles around.

Pirton, which gives a name to the hundred, is an inconsiderable village about a mile distant from Watlington. When the property of the conquered opposers of the Normans was distributed, Pirton (*Peritone* in Domesday) was bestowed on Hugh de Abrincis, surnamed Lupus, nephew to the Conqueror, who was so much esteemed for bravery, that he had the earldom of Chester

Chester given him to hold as free by the sword as the king held England by the crown. "It was worth, in King Edward's time, sixteen pounds; when received twenty-five pounds; now thirty pounds."* By a valuation which took place in the year 1428, the manor is said to be worth 16l. 13s. 4d. *and seven beeves per annum.* The manorial rights now belong to the Dean and Chapter of Windsor. In this parish was born H. Rose, M. A. author of a Philosophical Essay for the Re-union of Languages, printed at Oxford in 1674, and re-printed in the following year.

Near Pirton is SHIRBOURN CASTLE, the seat of the Earl of Macclesfield. A castellated edifice was first raised on this spot in the fourteenth century. Sir Wariner de L'Isle, banneret, obtained permission to build a castle, in the 51st of Edward III. at Shirbourn, where his ancestor, Wariner de L'Isle, in the 10th of the same king, had a charter of free warren, and leave to enclose one hundred acres of woodland for a park. "Shirburne," writes Leland, "within a mile of Wathelington church, where is a strong pile, or castelet, longid to Quatremains, since to Fowler, and, by exchange, now to Chaumbrelein, of Oxfordshire." The castle and manor were purchased at the beginning of the eighteenth century by Thomas, Earl of Macclesfield.

The building is nearly in the form of a parallelogram, and is encompassed by a broad and deep moat.† The approaches are over three drawbridges; the chief entrance is guarded by a porteullis. At each angle of the edifice is a circular tower. Flat ranges of stone building occupy the intervals; and along the whole top is an embattled parapet.

The interior is disposed in a style of modern elegance and comfort that contains no allusion to the external castellated character of the structure, with an exception of one long room fitted up

* Trans, Domesday, p. 27.

† In Volume XLIX of the Philosophical Transactions is an account of a considerable agitation of the water at Shirbourn Castle, Nov. 1, 1755.

up as an armoury. On the sides of this apartment are hung various pieces of mail, together with shields, tilting-spears, and offensive arms of a modern as well as ancient date. In a due situation is placed the chair of baronial dignity. The rooms are in general well proportioned, but not of very large dimensions. There are two capacious libraries, well furnished with books, and tastefully adorned with paintings and sculpture. Among the portraits are several of the Lord Chancellor Macclesfield, and an original of Catharine Parr, Queen to Henry VIII. She is represented standing behind a highly embellished vacant chair, with her hand on the back. Her dress is black, richly ornamented with precious stones. The fingers are loaded with rings; and in one hand is a handkerchief, edged with deep lace. Inserted in the lower part of the frame, and carefully covered with glass, is an interesting appendage to this portrait—a piece of hair cut from the head of Catharine Parr, in the year 1799, when her coffin was opened at Sudley Castle. The hair is auburn, and matches exactly with that described in the picture.

Within the castle are constructed both warm and cold baths; a luxury which too tardily creeps on the notice of this country, but which is one of the most desirable in which rank and affluence can indulge.

The park contains about sixty acres, but is too flat to afford much interest. The flower-garden is arranged in an agreeable and chaste style. A very extensive conservatory has lately been built from stone and cast iron; and, on a retired spot, is a pavilion for the reception of flowers in the more genial summer months.

Many circumstances may render it impracticable for the possessor of a splendid mansion to bestow an air of decent comfort on all the village tenements contiguous to his residence; but such untoward circumstances are ever to be regretted; for, surely, the best approach to magnificence is through a line of peasant-abodes conspicuous

conspicuous for domestic neatness! *The village of Shirbourn* is unfortunate in containing many huts of the most wretched description, which act as offensive foils to the massive splendour of the neighbouring castle.

SHIRBOURN LODGE is situated on one of the boldest acclivities of the Chiltern range. A thick mantle of beech envelopes the surrounding heights; and the whole situation appears, from the low-lands, to resemble in majestic gloom the domain of the ancient feudal lord. This sequestered mansion was long the favorite abode of the late Dowager Lady Macclesfield, who resided here in all the dignified simplicity attributed to the noble dames of distant eras:

> "Still skill'd the nimble steel to ply
> With quick inventive industry;
> Still skill'd to frame the moral rhyme,
> Or point with Gospel truths the lay sublime."*

Near WHEATFIELD, the pleasant residence of Lord C. Spencer, is a tumulus, with some remains of an intrenchment on the south-east, termed *Adwell Cop*, which, as it is not near any Roman road, Dr. Plot supposes to have been constructed either by the Britons or the Danes; and he is inclined to think it a relic of the latter people, and to have been made about the year 1010, "when the Danes, as Simeon of Durham testifies, came forth of their ships, in the month of January; and, passing through the Chiltern Woods, entered Oxford, and burnt that city, erecting, perhaps, this fortified barrow in the way, where it is likely they might meet with some opposition, and lose a principal captain."

In the neighbourhood of STOKE TALMAGE are the remains of *Standolph Chapel*, a building which has been for several centu-

* Poem called Watlington-Hill, &c.

ries

nies diverted from its original purpose, and appropriated to the use of the farmer.

WATLINGTON PARK, the seat of John Henry Tilson, Esq. is distant about one mile and a half on the south-east from the town of Watlington. In the reign of Charles I. this demesne was granted from the Crown, and from a warren was converted into a park by the Stonor family. Of their descendant it has recently been purchased by the present proprietor. The house is a respectable brick edifice, on a lofty site. The park comprises three hundred acres, and has every variety of feature which the Chiltern inequalities can bestow. The fine natural woods contain some of the largest beech in the county; and new plantations, of various genial kinds, assist in decorating the home district of the extensive property. From different points of this upland and diversified domain are prospects extremely picturesque, and reaching into parts of the counties of Warwick and Gloucester.

Pursuing the track towards Henley, the nearly impassable rudeness of the road, and the solitary grandeur of all around, remind the examiner of the early periods of national legend. The thickly-matted beech which wrap the high hills in continual shade, with little intervals of glade employed chiefly in depasturage, present a living picture of the country when the original Britons stole from these very precincts to catch a glance of wonder at bands of Romans, pursuing their august march along the neighbouring Prætorian way.

In the deepest seclusion of this woody district, and distant about four miles from Watlington, is the small village of PUSHILL. The church, a decent rural building, with white-washed walls, is seated on an acclivity. Its single bell was, several ages back, hung by the villagers in a yew-tree standing in the churchyard. Pushill was formerly held by the family of Doily, yielding to the king yearly a table-cloth of three shillings price, or three shillings for all service.

STONOR. The handsome mansion so termed is thus described by Leland:—"Stonor is a three mile out of Henley. Ther is a fayre parke, and a warren of conies, and fayre wood. The mansion place standyth clyming on a hill, and hath two courtes buildyd with tymbre, brike, and flynte. Sir William Stonor, now pocessor of it, hath augmented and strengthened the house. The Stoners hathe longe had it in possession. Synce one Fortescue invaded it by marriage of an heire-general of the Stoners, but after dispocessyd." Stonor is about *four* miles distant from Henley. The house now consists of a handsome front, composed of brick, with two projecting wings. Adjoining is a chapel. The park is rendered finely various by some of the most graceful undulations to be seen in the Chiltern district; and plantations of fir assist the native beech in imparting relief and beauty. The grounds are well stocked with deer.

Stonor gave name to the ancient family, whose descendant, Thomas Stonor, Esq. still possesses the estate. Of this family were Sir John Stonor, chief justice of the Common Pleas in the reign of Edward III.; and Sir Francis Stonor, who, in the early part of the seventeenth century, built at Upper Assendon an alms-house for ten poor people, and endowed it with a rent charge of sixty-one pounds *per annum*.

At ASSENDON, near Stonor, is a land spring, mentioned by several writers as the most eminent of its kind in England. The water only appears after a continuance of wet weather, but then issues forth in such abundance that mills might be turned by the current, and the adjacent lowlands are placed in a state of inundation. A memorable instance of this kind is said to have occurred in the year 1674, when the waters flowed with so much violence, "that, had not the town of Henley made some diversion for them, their *faire mile* (a level stretch of road on the Oxford side of Henley) must have been drowned for a considerable time." This spring has been supposed by some to act on the principle of a natural syphon, and to be supplied from subterranean

HENLEY ON THAMES.
Oxfordshire.

terranean sources; but the periods of its flowing, which are uniformly after local wet seasons, clearly prove the supposition to be founded on error.

In hedges near Watlington is found *sambucus nigra, (fruc. alb.)* common elder, with a white berry.

BINFIELD HUNDRED

is bounded on the south and east by the River Thames, which forms in those directions a line of separation between the counties of Oxford and Berks. The whole is in the Chiltern district, and is in general character more hilly than any other part of the county. Many of the elevations are richly clothed with beech. The basis of the hills is usually chalk, with a surface of loam, to various depths. But, where the hills recede, the soil is often a [illegible] sandy loam, highly amenable to agricultural purposes. The [illegible] of money raised for the poor, in the year ending Easter [illegible] was 6359l. 19s. 6¼d. making an average of 5s. 2¼d in the [illegible]

[illegible] hundred contains one market-town, Henley on Thames, [illegible] the parishes of *Bix, Caversham, Eye and Dunsden, Harps-*[illegible] with Bolney; *Rotherfield Grays, Rotherfield Peppard,* [illegible] *hiplake.*

HENLEY-ON-THAMES.

[illegible] tracts adjacent to this town, which Camden calls the [illegible] of Henley," are supposed to have been inhabited by [illegible] Ancalites, who submitted, or rather revolted, to Cæsar. Dr. [illegible] concludes that Henley is the most ancient town in the [illegible] as the name is compounded of the British *Hen*, old, and *ley*, a place; and he conjectures that it might have been the capital of the Ancalites. With less appearance of correctness Dr.

Gale makes it the calleva atrebatum of Antoninus. By writings of the date of Elizabeth it is shewn that the town was once called Hanlegang, and Hanneburg.

Henley is a clean and cheerful town, situated near the base of a cluster of hills, in one of the most agreeable windings of the River Thames. The buildings in the principal street are handsome and capacious, though far from regular.* The more ancient tenements, in the several minor avenues which diverge from the great thoroughfare, are mean and incommodious; but the beauty of the situation has induced many private families to construct ornamental houses; and the prosperity of the town is evinced by the improvements progressively taking place in the habitations of traders of every rank.

Henley is entered from the London road over a handsome bridge of five arches, built of Headington stone, and finished in 1786. The key-stone on each face of the centre arch is adorned with a sculptured mask, from the elegant chissel of the Hon. Mrs. Damer, who resided for some time in the neighbouring seat termed Park-place. The one mask symbolically represents Thame.

> "Her neck in whiteness vieing to the snows,
> Her dewy tresses floating as she flows."

The mask on the reverse key-stone exhibits Isis, with fish playing in the wavy honors of his lower face, and bulrushes inserted in the fillet which binds his temples. The views from the bridge are particularly fine. The meanders of the Thames abound with picturesque grace. On the Oxfordshire side a rich spread of

* A door-way, now about to be taken down, attached to a house on the north side of the High-street, claims notice. This is evidently Saxon, or early Normans, and is composed of many receding mouldings, rudely carved. There is not any mention of a religious foundation at Henley; but probably there was some building which acted as a cell to a neighbouring endowed house, and to such a structure this door-way might form the entrance.

LIBRARY

HENLEY BRIDGE.
Oxfordshire

of meadow, ornamented with the noble mansion of Fawley,* forms the foreground to a soft and lovely range of woody hills. The Buckinghamshire margin rises boldly, but not with abruptness, to a lofty [illegible] of elevation which nature and art have united to adorn. The extensive domain of the Earl of Malmsbury engrosses this portion of the view; and the plantations on every swell and fall of the scene are disposed in aid of picturesque effect.

Camden doubts whether this was not the part of the Thames over which, according to Dion, the Romans passed, under Aulus Plautius, in pursuit of the Britons; but Ward shews that Dion Cassius meant to describe "the marshy parts about the fens in Essex." There was a stone bridge across the Thames at Henley at a very early period. A bridge of wood was then constructed, which remained till the date of the present erection.

The church is a handsome, though irregular, Gothic structure, near the east entrance of the town. The tower is lofty, and composed of intermingled flint and stone. At each angle is a taper octagonal turret, which surmounts the battlements of the tower to a considerable height, and produces much lightness of effect.† The church is divided by two rows of Gothic arches, and consists of a nave, two side aisles, and a spacious chancel. The building was composed at different times; and the present north aisle appears to have formerly constituted the body of the church. On the north of the communion table are indications of the original [illegible], with two canopied niches, in one of which is, evidently, the [illegible] used for the eucharist.

On the north of the chancel is a large recording burial-place,

 built

[illegible] forming the boundary between Bucks and Oxon crosses the lawn [illegible] Fawley-Court. For an account of this seat, see Beauties, &c. [illegible]hamshire, p. 371.

[illegible] popularly supposed that this fine tower was built under the patronage of Cardinal Wolsey, but there are not any documents to support the assertion.

built by the family of Elmes, who formerly resided at Bolney-Court, and possessed much property in the county. The following lines, placed over the remains of Mr. Elmes and his lady, are much indebted to the facility which the name affords for quaint allusion:

This *Elme*, in years and worth well growne,
Death at the appointed time *cut downe*.
The ivy fades, her propp once gone;
Thus fallne, both lye under this stone.
But lye, afresh to spring, grow, spread,
When every tree shall rise that's dead.

In the chancel is a handsome monument to the memory of Lady Elizabeth Periam, the benefactress to Baliol College, Oxford, with her effigies in a half recumbent posture. Her ladyship was relict of Sir William Periam, lord chief baron of the Exchequer, and resided at Greenland, near Henley. In a window on the east are some small painted figures, which demand notice only from the circumstance of having a piece of plain glass substituted for the original pictured head. The fanatical soldiers, in the civil war of Charles I. were often persuaded to be content with thus decapitating the "abominable emblems of idolatry and superstition."

The register of the parish commences with the first year of Elizabeth. During the protectorate of Cromwell it was kept in a manner deplorably slovenly by the scribe who assumed the office of the ejected incumbent; and, on the Restoration, the churchwardens deemed it expedient to convene a meeting of the inhabitants, in order to obtain their testimony respecting the baptism of children, and such other particulars as were necessary to the correcting or filling up of the register. The laxity of ceremonials, which formed so large a share of the perverse pride of the fanatics, must have been peculiarly disgusting to the inhabitants of Henley, since they were so much attached to the ordinances

dispensers of the ancient church, that we find licences to eat flesh on fish days solicited and granted so late as the time of Charles I. One of these is entered in the following words, and is, perhaps, nearly the last dispensation granted for a similar purpose in this country:—" 1634. Memorandum that, on the 3d of March a licence was granted to Mr. Thomas Thimblethorpe to eate flesh on fish dayes, during the time of his weakness, and not longer."

In the vestry are deposited many of the valuable books collected by the accomplished and urbane Dean Aldrich, who was rector of Henley, and died in 1737. These principally consist of Greek and Latin classics, works in Hebrew, and other Oriental languages, the ancient Fathers, the most esteemed biblical critics, and various historical publications. The whole was liberally bequeathed by Dean Aldrich as the foundation of a parochial library. The rules by which he wished the institution to be governed are fairly copied and hung in the vestry. From this transcript it appears that all parishioners of Henley, who are liable to church rates, have not only free access to the library, but are permitted to take home any volume, on signing a promise, in a book kept for that purpose, to restore it without damage. We unwillingly observe that not a single volume has been added to the collection; and the books appear to be little in request with the persons for whose use they were intended. Among the works bequeathed are some original manuscripts by the Dean. These are carefully preserved in the house of the resident clergyman.

In the church-yard is interred Richard Jennings, " the master-builder of St. Paul's Cathedral," who had quitted all pursuits of business for some time previous to his decease, and resided at Badgmoor, near Henley.

The Town-hall stands on an elevated spot in the High-street, and is a neat building, completed in 1796. Beneath the hall is a commodious piazza, used as a market-house. In a retired part

of the town is a well-built meeting-house, for the class of Dissenters termed Independents.

A small Theatre has been lately erected, and it is tolerably well attended for a few weeks in the year. A Book Society has also been recently established, which is supported by subscription. This institution meets with so much encouragement, that, besides purchasing the most desirable periodical publications, the Society is enabled to expend nearly 100l. *per annum* in works of a more durable interest.

The town contains two Free-School foundations. For one of these it is indebted to King James I. and for the other to Lady Elizabeth Periam. The latter is entirely unconnected with Lady Periam's benefactions to Baliol College; and both the schools are now united under one master, who is a graduate of the University of Oxford.

Here is also an Alms-house, founded and endowed by John Longland, Bishop of Lincoln, in grateful remembrance of the place which afforded him birth.

Henley yields little that is interesting, either in an historical or a commercial point of view. In 1642, the Parliamentary troops occupied different positions in the neighbourhood; and, in 1644, the Earl of Essex was quartered here, with a considerable force in the same interest. The inhabitants do not appear to have taken any active part; and the chief object of the Parliamentary troops, in their latter visit, was the reduction of Greenland-house, then a fortified residence of the D'Oyley family. In 1646 the town was garrisoned by the Parliamentarian army.

In the annals of police there occurs a melancholy instance of the insufficiency of education to preserve the judgment and the principles from the lowest state of perversion, when one strong passion is suffered to creep over the heart in the insidious guise of a social virtue. In the year 1752, Miss Mary Blandy was convicted of the murder of her father! The following is an outline of this lamentable case.

Mr.

Mr. Francis Blandy, a solicitor of some note, and town-clerk of Henley, was so imprudent as to take pride in encouraging the prevalent notion that he should leave at his death a large property to Mary, his only daughter. Miss Blandy's reputation for fortune induced Captain Cranstoun, a recruiting officer, and a man who had a wife living in Scotland, to attempt a conquest of her affections. His arts were successful, but his previous marriage was discovered by the family, and he was forbidden the house by the father. Infatuated by passion, the object of his pursuit believed every falsehood which he invented, and continued her connexion with him in contempt of parental interdiction. The fortune *to be bequeathed* was the object of Cranstoun's aim, and he transmitted to Miss Blandy small packets of arsenic, which she administered at various times to her father in water-gruel. The effects, though excruciating, were judged by Cranstoun too slow, and he advised a larger dose. The victim took it, and died in a few days.

Dr. Addington of Reading, and another eminent physician, attended the sufferer; and on the trial they clearly proved the fact of his death by poison. Servants and other satisfactory witnesses shewed, with equal perspicuity, that the fatal drug proceeded from the hand of his daughter. In addition to the dying man's pangs he had the distress of being conscious that he received his death from the action of his only child. Dr. Addington asked him, while sustaining his throbbing head, "whom he suspected to be the person that had administered the fatal preparation?" He replied with tears in his eyes, though with a forced smile, "*A poor love-sick girl!—But I forgive her!*"

The parricide was put to the bar in the Divinity School at Oxford (as the town-hall was then rebuilding.) In defence, Miss Blandy asserted that she had believed the mixture, which she confessed she administered, to be simply *Love Powder*, and had thought that she was only working, by way of charm, an alteration in her father's sentiments concerning Cranstoun. It would

would be pleasing to believe this statement, pleasing to believe any thing that could free an only child's hand from the imputation of intentional murder; but it must be remarked, that she witnessed the effect of the powders, stage by stage, and saw, with a remorseless heart, the agony which they inflicted. She, however, persisted in the assertion at the hour of death; and likewise in a paper which she left to be published after her execution.

In the periodical publications of that era it is said that the inhabitants of Oxfordshire will long retain the impression of this sad event; and they were right: the persons who shew the Divinity School to strangers still tell them, "that this is the place in which *Miss Blandy* was tried."

Henley has no staple manufacture. When Camden wrote, the "inhabitants lived principally by carrying wood to London in boats, and bringing back corn." Plot mentions "the invention of making glasses, from stones and some other materials," for which a patent was obtained. The inhabitants are now chiefly engaged in *malting* for the London market, and in such commercial interchanges with adjacent villages as are common to every provincial town. The considerable number of family mansions in the neighbourhood is productive of much emolument to the traders.

The town is well paved and lighted, and its local beauties induce many persons from the metropolis to visit it, in the summer months *.

Although

* The Red Lion Inn is chiefly the resort of strangers led to visit Henley by its reputation for local beauty. This house is immediately contiguous to the Thames, and it was here that Shenstone wrote, with a diamond, the pleasing little poem commencing thus:

To thee, fair freedom! I retire,
From flatt'ry, cards, and dice and din.
Nor art thou found in mansions higher
Than the low cot, or humble inn.

The pane on which he wrote this testimonial of comfort was lately preserved in a window which overlooks the river; but it has now disappeared.

Although this place is not recorded as a Roman garrison, some relics have been found which seem to prove that the Romans had habitations here. In the seventeenth century three urns were dug from premises in the market-place, then occupied by a Mr. Finch. One, also, was found beneath the highway at the north end of the town.

"Henley," observes Camden, "had formerly the *Molines* for its lords, from whom, by the *Hungerfords*, who procured the town a grant of two fairs from Henry VI. it came, by inheritance, to the illustrious family of *Hastings*." The manorial rights are now vested in the Earl of Malmsbury.

The town has a weekly market, and is governed by a high steward, recorder, mayor, ten aldermen, and sixteen burgesses. The existing charter of incorporation was granted in 1722, at the request of the Earl of Macclesfield, who was chosen high steward. The returns of population to Parliament, in 1811, make the number of inhabitants 3,117, and of houses 537.

Two natives of this place demand biographical notice;—John Longland, Bishop of Lincoln, and William Lenthal.

Longland was Confessor to Henry VIII. and was promoted to the See of Lincoln, in 1520. He was one of the most popular preachers of his day, but is deserving of censure for actively promoting the divorce between Henry and Queen Catharine. He died in the year 1547.

William Lenthal, a prominent character in the civil commotions of the seventeenth century, is claimed as a native by the town of Henley, though at the time of his birth his father resided at Lachford, Oxfordshire, where the family had long been settled. The only author who mentions the locality of Lenthal's birth is Anthony Wood; but Wood is decided in his assertion, and adds that he was born in a house near the church. He was either a second or third son, and is believed to have received the early part of his education at Thame school, whence he was removed to Alban Hall, Oxford. After a residence of three

three years at Oxford he proceeded to London, and studied the law as a profession with eminent assiduity. In 1637, he was lent reader of Lincoln's Inn; and, soon after, was admitted a bencher of that society. *

His name does not occur in public affairs till 1640, in which year he was returned burgess for Woodstock, in the short Parliament. This Parliament sat scarcely five weeks; yet, by one of those accidents so essential to the progress of human fortune, Lenthal attained distinction in it. The House divided on the king's propositions respecting a substitute for ship-money, when Serjeant Glanville, the speaker, left the chair, and Lenthal was called to it by a majority.

When the long Parliament met, on the third of November, in the same year, Lenthal was chosen speaker, in consequence of the interference of the king himself. But he foresaw that thick, gathering cloud which was about to scatter terrors over the nation; and, according to Lord Clarendon, "he was rather prevailed with, than persuaded, to accept the charge." Never was the exercise of the high office to which he was called subject to such trials of equanimity. At one period he saw the king enter the House, in force, and demand the use of his chair; and, at another, he was impelled by the factious violence of Parliament to become an instrument in measures which appear, in this early stage of civil convulsion, to have been quite contrary to his principles and feelings.

But he wanted constitutional firmness of temper, and was warped by a wish for personal aggrandizement. In 1643, the Lords and Commons prayed the king to make Lenthal master of the

* Several of his family had attained considerable consequence in the profession of the law. One of his ancestry, Sir John Lenthal, was marshal of the King's Bench, on whom was made the trite distich attributed to Ben Jonson:

"When a man has spent all,
Then take him, Sir John Lenthal."

the rolls. This appointment was known to be contrary to the king's wish. No answer was returned, and they bestowed on him the place by their own authority, which he was contented to hold till the Restoration. In 1646 he was likewise appointed by the Parliamentary powers one of the commissioners of the great seal; and, on the same year, he, at the head of 300 members, waited on Fairfax, in consequence of that general's numerous successes, and delivered a gratulatory speech, which was afterwards printed and carefully spread through every district of the island.

In 1647, the dignity of Lenthal's chair was violated by a power more dangerous than that of the mistaken monarch, who had once ordered him to quit his seat. On a petition from the city meeting in this year with some opposition, a tumultuous rabble seized the speaker, and by force thrust him into his chair, and kept him there until their wishes were complied with. Lenthal, attended by about forty members, and accompanied by the speaker of the House of Lords, removed the mace, and hastened to Fairfax, then at Windsor, who opposed disciplined democracy to unrestrained tumult, and reinstated the speakers in triumph. On this occasion Lenthal made a speech, soon after printed with the title of "A Speech to his Excellency, Sir T. Fairfax, after the army had granted the members of Parliament to sit in safety."

Lenthal had long since chosen his party, and seems to have become more devoted to self-interest in each succeeding year; but he never forgot, or neglected, the feelings of humanity. When the House divided, 57 to 57, on the question of opening a treaty with the king, then a prisoner in the Isle of Wight, Lenthal, as speaker, decided in favour of the treaty; and he is allowed to have been free from a participation in the acts immediately leading to the death of Charles, though he is said by Walker to have been too deeply engaged in some of the intrigues which hurried affairs to so fatal an issue. His natural inclination towards mercy was evinced in the trial of Lord Goring, Earl of Norwich.

The

The casting vote again fell into his hands, and he saved the accused; though so sanguinary and dangerous was the turbulence of faction, that he was constrained to feign former personal obligations, as an excuse for his clemency. The conduct of the majority on this occasion afforded so much pleasure to the city of London, that they invited the speaker and House of Commons to a grand dinner. The citizens met their senatorial visitors in much state, and the Lord Mayor resigned to Lenthal the civic sword, a custom before considered due only to the sovereign.

When Oliver Cromwell dissolved the long Parliament, Lenthal behaved with firmness, and he was not returned in the ensuing Parliament, named after the miserable fanatic Praise-God-Bare-Bones; but, in the Parliament which was summoned by Cromwell as Protector, he was returned for two places, Gloucester and the county of Oxford, and was appointed speaker by the recommendation of Cromwell. This Parliament proved untractable, and was speedily dissolved; but Lenthal was among the most apparently zealous of those who waited on the Protector to request that he would take the title of King. In the single Parliament, called by Richard Cromwell, he sat in the Upper House, by the title of William Lord Lenthal.

On the Restoration Lenthal was excepted from the act of indemnity. He, however, afterwards obtained a general pardon. When he, with difficulty, procured permission to kiss the king's hand, he is said by Wood to "have had so deep a sense of guilt and shame, that he fell backwards as he was kneeling." He afterwards retired to Burford, in Oxfordshire, where he built a chapel adjoining his house, and dedicated much of his declining time to religious services. Books, also, claimed a portion of this calm season of his life, and he evinced invariable zeal in patronising the learned.

Lenthal appears to have been a man indebted for advancement to fortunate opportunity, rather than to personal talent. His

His love of aggrandizement was evidently too strong for his principles; but still, he is one of the least objectionable of the numerous faulty characters of his eventful era. He waded through no blood to attain the favourite object of pursuit; and he was not so debased, or so weak, as either to counterfeit, or to entertain, the puritanical enthusiasm of the age.

HARPSDEN-COURT, the seat of Thomas Hall, Esq. is situated about one mile south of Henley. "The fair lordeship of Harpeden," says Leland, "and fair ancient large manor place, with dobil courtes, standing in Oxfordshir, within half a mile of Henle upon Tamise, longgid to the Harpedens, Gentilmen of Fame, and cam to the Fosters of Barkeshire." Of Sir Humphrey Foster the estate was purchased, towards the latter end of the reign of Charles I. by Bartholemew Hall, Esq. from whom it descended to the present proprietor. The mansion is placed, according to the taste of the era in which it was built, on too low a site for a command of the fine scenery spread around; but is much adorned by the beech-covered hills which protect it in nearly every direction. A considerable portion of the original edifice has been taken down since the period of Leland's Perambulation. Many alterations were effected in the reign of the first James; but there are persons still living in the neighbourhood who remember the building to have possessed two courts; and it is traditionally said to have contained seven halls. One of these was denominated *Beggar's Hall*, and from that circumstance some have supposed the house to have been formerly of a religious character; but the idea is evidently futile; and the appellation, in all probability, merely arose from the indiscriminate bounty of a former possessor when the suppression of monasteries first threw the old and the indolent on the charity of the landed interest. Three sides of one court only remained when the present proprietor acceded to the estate; and two of these, comprising thirty-four rooms, have since been removed. Enough is still preserved to constitute a handsome residence, and to convey the ideas of ancient amplitude and hospitality.

In a wood, to the south-west of the house, is a small circumvallation, near which, according to Plot, Roman coins have been found; but none of these have descended to the present proprietor.

Contiguous to the mansion is the parish church, an unostentatious building, with a wooden turret. In a recess, on the right of the chancel, is an effigy, in stone, rather smaller than life, the legs crossed, and the feet resting on a dog. The figure is clothed in a loose dress, not dissimilar in general effect to modern attire, the skirts of the upper garment descending, like a coat, a little below the knees. A three-edged sword, now mutilated, is fastened round the loins by a broad belt; and the figure is represented with one hand on the hilt, and the other on the scabbard, in the act of drawing it. The heels are armed with spurs. From the want of armour, and from the circumstance of the sword being only partly drawn, this, probably, was a knight who had dedicated his service to the war in the Holy-land, but died before he could carry his intention into effect.

SHIPLAKE, a parish joining Harpsden on the south, contains a number of rural tenements, agreeably scattered among the hills of this unequal district. The church is a respectable Gothic structure, situated on an eminence bordering on the river Thames. The tower has an embattled parapet, and is rendered highly picturesque by a profusion of ivy which has so firmly insinuated its wiry branches into the fissures of the building, that it would appear rather to impart strength than to communicate injury. The building is composed chiefly of the flint so plentifully found in the neighbourhood, and is divided by two rows of Gothic arches, and a rude and ancient screen of oak, into a nave, chancel, and south aisle. The architecture is evidently of different periods; and the aisle on the south was, probably, the whole of the original church, as there appear the remains of a chancel in a raised platform at the east. The church contains several ancient monuments of the Blundens and Plowdens, both of which families formerly possessed considerable

Engraved by Wallworth from a Drawing by J. P. Neale after a Sketch by Morris Pauli

for the Beauties of England & Wales

SHIPLAKE CHURCH & PARSONAGE,
Oxfordshire.

London Published by John Harris St Pauls Church Yard Feb. 1 1813

derable estates in the neighbourhood. A plain mural tablet, likewise, contains the following inadequate memorial of the Rev. Mr. Granger, author of the Biographical History of England, who long conscientiously discharged the vicarial duties of this parish:

H . J
Jacobus Granger
hujus Parochiæ Vicarius
qui obiit
15mo. die Aprilis
Anno { Domini 1776.
Ætatis 53.

The Vicarage is separated from the church-yard only by a narrow and rural lane. When Mr. Granger came to the living, the house, in the words of the Terrier of the Vicarage, consisted merely of "two floors, three rooms on a floor." Mr. Granger made some additions, among which was a room for the reception of his numerous prints illustrative of the Biographical History. Many tasteful alterations have been effected by the Rev. Mr. Howman, the present vicar; and the natural beauties of the situation aid in rendering it one of the most desirable spots of residence in the county. It is impossible to view this elegant and sequestered abode without reflecting on the many hours happily dedicated, by its former possessor, to a work equally estimable to the amateur of the arts, and to the student of human character. It is equally impossible to avoid regret when we remember the melancholy abruptness with which those literary labours were terminated. Mr. Granger was seized with apoplexy, while standing at the communion table, in the face of his congregation. He breathed for some short time after he was carried home, but never spoke. Many of his former parishioners have a vivid recollection of his simple unassuming manners, and take pleasure in bestowing the humble tribute of their praise on his genuine worth.

Beneath the ancient manor-house of Shiplake, not far distant

from the vicarage, was a spacious crypt, with a grained roof, and two separate aisles, or avenues, distinctly marked. The shafts of the columns were very short, and the capital and base of each in complete preservation. This house was lately pulled down for the value of the materials, by a farmer of the modern school who had bargained for the estate on speculation, though without being able to fulfil the covenants of purchase, and the stone work of the crypt was disposed of as common lumber.

By Letters Patent, Edward VI. in the first year of his reign granted the vicarage to the dean and canons of Windsor. The register of this parish commences only in 1672, and does not contain any remarkable entries.

On *Shiplake Hill* is the seat of Lord Mark Kerr, third son of the Marquis of Lothian. This mansion and its dependent lands were long in the family of Deane, of which proprietors they were purchased by John Hanscomb, Esq. who sold them to the present noble owner. The house has been considerably augmented by Lord Mark, and commands rich views over the vale of Reading, and the more distant parts of Berkshire.

At the bottom of a pond on *Binfield Heath*, in this parish, have been found many oak trees, quite firm and sound, but dyed throughout as black as ebony. Several of these were discovered in the seventeenth century, and are mentioned by Plot, in his Natural History; and many have, likewise, been found within the few years lately passed. The black dye Plot supposes to have been produced by a "vitriolic humour in the earth, which joining with oak, the parent of a sort of *Galls*, might reasonably enough produce such an effect." The timber was probably thrown into the pond, or dyke, in which it was found, by the earliest class of agriculturists, merely for the purpose of clearing the ground intended for tillage. On the same heath is one of the geological phænomena, termed *Swallows*. These curious natural drains, into which the land-flood waters flow and disappear, are generally found, as in the present instance, on high lands. *

BELL-HATCH.

* See Beauties, &c. for Northamptonshire, p. 210.

Bell-Hatch, near Binfield Heath, is the pleasant retired residence of John Hanscomb, Esq. This is one of the embellished agricultural abodes which display all the comforts of life without any of its ostentation.

Crowsley, or, as it is termed in ancient writings, Crouhley-Park, was formerly in possession of the Aldsworth family, and is now the seat of John Atkyns Wright, Esq. one of the representatives in Parliament for the city of Oxford. The house is a brick building, ornamented with an embattled parapet and square towers, and has received many improvements from its present highly-respected possessor. The park contains about one hundred and sixty acres, and is well stocked with deer, and enriched with flourishing oaks. Mr. Atkyns Wright is Lord of the manors of Crowsley, Shiplake, and Lashbrook.

The village of Caversham is seated on the banks of the Thames, and is one mile distant from Reading, in Berkshire. At the time of the Norman Survey "Walter Gifard held of the king twenty hides in Caversham. Land to twenty-one ploughs." There were then in the *demesne* four ploughs and two bondmen; and twenty-eight villanes with thirteen bordars had thirteen ploughs.

The church, dedicated to St. Peter, is built of flint, on which has been laid a coating of plaister. The architecture is of different ages. According to Dr. Ducarel, the original church, thirty feet long by twenty, was built in the time of Henry I. which opinion he founds on the character of two lancet windows on the south side. The north aisle the same writer places in the reign of Richard II. from its windows of three munions; and the continuation of the aisle to the east end he assigns to the time of Henry IV. The antiquity of the lower division of the steeple is proved by a Norman arch on the interior: the upper part is of wood, painted white. In this church is preserved a proclamation of King James, appointing certain days for persons diseased with the evil to receive the royal touch.

The canons of Nottely, in Buckinghamshire, had a cell here,

and some fragmentary remains of their chapel may still be traced near the bridge. In this chapel we are told by Dr. London, one of the visitors appointed by Henry VIII. was a famous relic, "an angel with one wing, which brought to Caversham the spear-head that pierced our Saviour on the Cross!" It appears from the Monasticon, that Caversham church was a part of the endowment of the canons of Nottely.

There was, also, a foundation attached to the church, termed Our Lady's Chapel. Kennet, in his Parochial Antiquities, observes, that Gilbert Mareschall, Earl of Pembroke, gave to the canons of Notteley the tithes of all his mills and fisheries at Caversham, and twelve shillings yearly, for the maintenance of two lamps in the chapel of our Lady.

When the town of Reading was besieged by the Parliamentarian force during the civil war, this village shared largely in the calamities of the neighbourhood, and was, in one instance, the theatre of a skirmish of some consequence. After the town had hung out a white flag, and while the parties were treating concerning articles of surrender, some troops of the king's drew nigh, by mistake, and the scene which ensued is thus described in the diary kept by Sir Samuel Luke: "In the Interim, upon *Cawsam* Hill, unexpected to us, came his Majesty's Forces, under the Command of General Ruven and Prince *Robert*, consisting of about forty Collours of Horse and nine Regiments of Foote, with ordnance and other ammunition; they fell upon a loose Regiment that lay there to keepe the Bridge, and gave them a furious assault both with their ordnance and men, one Bullet being taken up by our Men which weighed twenty-four Pounds, at the least. This was answered with our Musketts, and we made the Hill soe hott for them that they were forced to retreate, leaving behind seven Bodyes of as personable Men as ever were seene, and most of their armes; besides others which fell in three or four Miles compasse, as they retreated. And it is sayed that within five Miles there were 500 hurt men drest in a Barne, besides many Prisoners which wee tooke, and many hurt men within our Precincts,

cincts, to which wee sent the next Morning our Surgions to dresse, and gave orders to have the dead Bodyes buryed by the Parishioners where they were slaine."

In the ground attached to the small, but neat, cottage of Mr. Williams, on *Caversham Hill*, a mineral spring was discovered in the year 1803. "The water is saturated to the highest degree with iron, held in solution by the carbonic acid of gas. From a gallon of water thirty-two grains of solid contents have been procured, the greater part of which seemed to be an oxyd of iron *."

Caversham Lodge, the seat of C. Marsac, Esq. has already been noticed in the volume of this work for Berkshire, page 107. In addition to the circumstances there mentioned it may be observed, that the ancient house in which Anne of Denmark, Queen of James I. was entertained, and in which King Charles I. was permitted to have an interview with his children, was situate nearer to the Thames than the present structure. It is described by *Campion* † as a fair house, composed of brick. In the front of the mansion were three avenues of trees, the central of which was called the Queen's Walk, in remembrance of Anne of Denmark. This name is still traditionally preserved, though the avenue has been removed, and a small portion of the line is exhibited by some thickly-matted elms, which have sprung from several of the tree-roots suffered to remain in the ground. A second of the avenues was termed the King's Walk, in honour of Charles I.

The whole of the grounds attached to the house consist of about five hundred acres. These were laid out in their present beautiful form by Lord Cadogan, with the assistance of *Brown*, who certainly could find *Capability* in these premises without the exercise of any unusual ingenuity. It was in consequence of

Z 3 Brown's

* This statement is extracted from "observations and experiments," &c. on the virtues of this chalybeate, written by the Rev. T. E. Williams, the very ingenious son of the proprietor.

† In his curious account of the entertainment given at Caversham to Queen Anne, in 1613.

Brown's advice that the long and ancient avenues of trees were removed.

ROTHERFIELD PEPPARD, a parish on the south-west of Henley, was styled simply Rotherfield till the thirteenth century, when it acquired its additional appellation from William Pipard, or Pypard, who held this manor of the honour of Wallingford, as a part of six knight's fees granted to him, upon homage, by Henry III. in the year 1225.—Ralph Pipard was created a baron by writ of summons to Parliament, in the twenty-fifth of Edward I. From the Pipards the manor and advowson passed by marriage to the Botelers, in the time of Edward II. The Botelers sold to the Draytons, and of Richard Drayton the property was acquired by the family of Stonor. Thomas Stonor, Esq. was lord and patron in the year 1502. Sir Leoline Jenkins afterwards procured the advowson, and bestowed it on Jesus College, Oxford.

Under a pond near *Blount's Court*, in this parish, were found, in the year 1675, several oak trees, the discovery of which was attended with some interesting circumstances. According to a copious statement in Plot's Natural History it appears that the labourers, on cleansing the pond for the benefit of the soil, came to the *top branches* of a large tree. Mr. Stonor, of Watlington Park, to whom the pond belonged, then caused a pit to be dug, about twenty yards over, and fifty or sixty feet deep. By thus penetrating the soil the workmen extricated many whole oaks, "whereof one stood upright, perpendicular to the horizon; the others lay obliquely; only one was inverted, the forked end downward. Beside the trees, all along as the labourers dug, they met with plenty of hazel nuts, from within a yard of the surface to the bottom of the pit, which *Time's iron teeth had not yet cracked.* The oaks had none of them any roots, but were plainly cut off at the *Kerf*, as is used in felling timber; and, near the bottom of the pit, were found a large stag's head, with the brow-antlers as sound as the beam itself, and two Roman urns, both of which were broken by the incurious workmen."

Dr. Plot observes, that it is very unlikely these oaks should be

be [illegible], as was probably the case with those on Binfield Heath, merely for the disencumbering of the soil; and he ventures to suppose that there is a mine beneath the spot on which they were found. This mine he conjectures to be of silver, rather than of any other metal, on account of an "alabastrine, or [illegible]like, substance, which was mixed with the mould." He endeavours to strengthen his opinion, by observing that a considerable degree of heat prevailed at the bottom of the pit, as is usual near a mine-chamber. Some of the nuts and trees were, [illegible], covered with "a bluish substance, which he believed to be Petroleum nativum." Having thus argued himself into the belief of a mine existing, he proceeds to observe, that it was probably worked by the Romans, and was closed by them on quitting this country, "first by throwing in trees, which, not lying close enough immediately to support the earth, were after covered with hazels, when the nuts were fully ripe, on which they heaped stones, which, after some time, sinking below the surface of the adjacent ground, might occasion this pond."

[illegible]THERFIELD GRAY, or Grey, adjoins the preceding parish, and acquires the distinctive part of its appellation from John de Grey, created Baron Grey in the 25th of Edward I. This John was of a younger branch of the family of Walter Grey, Archbishop of York, from whom they gained the property of Rotherfield. From the Greys the estate passed to the Lovels; and [illegible] by attainder, reverting to the Crown, was bestowed on the family of Knollys. Of that family it was purchased by the Stapleton, with whom it still remains.

In this parish the noble family of Grey built an extensive and [illegible]ated mansion, some part of which yet remains, and is attached to the present edifice, termed *Greys-Court*, the residence of Lady Stapleton, mother of Lord Le Despencer. The [illegible]t Baronial-house appears to have consisted of two quadrangles, and a great part of the site may still be traced, chiefly in [illegible] of the present building, by the parched state of the grass after a long continuance of dry weather.

The Church is a neat and rather spacious structure, with a wooden turret. The walls are whitened on the outer side; and gain much pictorial effect from a partial but umbrageous screen of ivy.

In the chancel is a stone, with brasses, commemorative of Sir Robert de Grey,* who died in 1387. A part of the brass represents the deceased in armour, in a canopied stall, with a lion at his feet.

In a spacious recess, on the north of the chancel, erected in 1605, is the burial-place of the Banbury family. Over the vault is a monument of exuberant workmanship, raised by William Lord Knollys, Viscount Wallingford, and Earl of Banbury. The monument is divided into two stories. In the lower range is the effigy, in stone, of Sir Francis Knollys, knight of the garter, and treasurer of the household to Queen Elizabeth, with that of his lady by his side. These were the parents of the Earl; and the whole of their children who attained maturity, seven sons and six daughters, together with the Countess of Banbury, their daughter-in-law, are represented kneeling around. From the variety of feature, it is evident that each of these figures was intended for a likeness. On the right hand of Lady Knollys is the effigy of a fourteenth child, which died an infant.

In the upper story are statues of the Earl of Banbury and his Lady, in their robes, kneeling before a desk and open book. There is not any inscription whatever on this monument.

In the same recess is a mural tablet, with an urn at top, and the family arms beneath, to the memory of Sir Thomas Stapleton. The font of this church is Saxon; and the basin supported by pillars with diversified capitals.

The rectory of Grays is extremely valuable, and belongs to Trinity College, Oxford.

BADGMOOR, rather less than a mile on the north-west of Henley, is the residence of Joseph Grote, Esq. The house was originally

* Said by Gough, in his additions to Camden, to be Robert the last Lord Grey.

originally small, but has been considerably augmented by the present proprietor. It is a plain, but desirable brick dwelling, surrounded by about forty acres of pleasure-ground. A grateful air of seclusion has been studied in the arrangement of the grounds. The views from a spacious summer-house, constructed by Mr. Grote, are extremely fine; and much art has been used to heighten the effect of the display. Long ranges of shrubs are so planted as to form three avenues of conduct to the prospect, and the whole of a deep dell, immediately at the base of the building, is thickly matted with the laurel and the holly; by which arrangement it forms a fore-ground of sober dark green, eminently calculated to shew the rich and lively distance to advantage.

In meadows, pastures, and hedges, near Henley, is found the *creeping toad flax, antirrhinum repens, monspessulanum;* and, in chalky woods near the same town, *hordeum sylvaticum, wood barley.*

LANGTREE HUNDRED

is separated from the county of Berks on the west and south-west by the River Thames. The larger portion of the hundred is in the Chiltern district, at the edge of which, on the parts north of the village of Goring, runs the Ikeneild-street. The soil of the hills is chiefly calcareous; but, in the vicinity of the Thames, a fine tract of sandy loam is spread at their base. Long ranges of beech are frequent in the Chiltern part of the hundred. Beyond the Roman road the soil of the uplands gradually meliorates, but does not assume any determinate character.

This hundred is but thinly peopled, and consists of the following parishes:—*Checkendon, Crowmarsh Gifford, Goring, Ipsden,* with the Liberty of Stoke Row, *Mapledurham, Mongewell, Nuneham-warren, North-Stoke,* and *Whitchurch.*

The

COOMBE-LODGE, a mansion lately erected by Samuel Gardiner, Esq. In regard to home scenery Mr. Gardiner has the merit of an entire creation. He found a spot nearly level, somewhat subject to encroachments from the Thames, and quite devoid of wood, the great essential of the picturesque. All that art could do has been effected. His plantations thicken round, and promise soon to embower his walks, and to impart relief and shade to his spacious residence. In the mean time he has a rich spread of scenery at no great distance, to recompense for protracted expectation. The meander of the Thames, in the neighbourhood of his seat, assumes the tranquil semblance of a lake, on the glassy bosom of which stands reflected a weighty mass of foliage from the Berkshire side of the water. Beyond is a gay and countless succession of hills, smiling in cultivation, or affluent in wood and natural verdure.

The next village on the Oxfordshire side of the Thames is GORING. Here was an Augustine nunnery, founded in the reign of Henry II. and valued, at the Dissolution, at 60l. 5s. 5d. *per annum*. The site was granted, in the 30th of Henry VIII. to Charles, Duke of Suffolk; and, six years afterwards, to Sir Thomas Pope.

The buildings in this place are humble, and are, in general, destitute of that neatness which often affords more heartfelt interest than architectural splendour. Several disjoined fragments of the nunnery yet linger in progressive decay.

Near this place the Ikeneild-street quitted Oxfordshire. We have already observed that no traces of that Roman road can be readily ascertained on the eastern side of the Thames, beyond Grove-Barn, distant nearly three miles from Goring.

In the vicinity of this village, and on the very margin of the Thames, is a medicinal water, termed *Springwell*. This spring was of high repute in the early part of the last century; and a long enumeration of cures performed by it in cutaneous cases, and in disorders of the eyes, may be seen in the Reading Mercury for June, 1724. It had its day of celebrity, and is now disregarded.

regarded. The country people have sagaciously discovered the cause of its loss of efficacy: when the water cured, it was dispensed gratuitously; the proprietor then demanded a fee from patients, and the virtue disappeared.

MONGEWELL is the seat of the Bishop of Durham. At the time of the Norman survey Mongewell formed a part of Lewknor Hundred, and was held of Earl William by Roger de Laci. It then possessed two mills, and was valued at fourteen pounds.

The country in this neighbourhood loses many of the attractive features which we have noticed in the more southerly parts of the hundred. The hills sink into downs; and we no longer see a rich coverlet of beech protrude its beauties close to the bank of the great river. The mansion is unfavourably placed for a command of scenery; but the attached grounds are extensive, and arranged with much taste. The exemplary steps taken by the dignified and truly amiable proprietor to improve the manners of the neighbouring peasantry have been noticed in our prefatory statement of circumstances generally connected with this county.

From the vicinity of Mongewell the Roman vallum, termed Grime's Dike, runs into a south-east direction towards Nuffield.*

CROWMARSH GIFFORD is a village separated from the town of Wallingford by the River Thames. In Domesday it is written *Cravmares*, and stands there as the property of Walter Gifard. From the surname of this possessor it evidently acquired the second part of its present appellation. At the time of the survey it was valued at twenty pounds.

When King Stephen besieged the Empress Matilda in the town of Wallingford, he surrounded the castle of that place with a line strengthened by forts, the principal of which was at *Craumerse*. Prince Henry, (afterwards Henry II.) Matilda's son, hastened to the aid of his mother, and is said to have thrown lines of circumvallation completely round the works of the besiegers. Unable to reduce the town, Stephen consented to a parley. During the

* See page 12.

the conference the king stood on the Crowmarsh side of the river, while the prince and his friends lined the opposite bank. A nominal peace was the result.

At *Ipsden*, in the more elevated part of this district, John Read, Esq. has an agreeable residence; and at *Cane End* is the respectable family mansion of William Vandenstegen, Esq.

EWELM HUNDRED

is north of Langtree. Much of this district is yet in open field, and it contains nearly every possible variety of soil.

Ewelm Hundred comprises the township of *Little Hasely*, the Tything of *Holcombe*, with Brockhampton, and the following parishes, liberties, and hamlets: *Bensington*, with Crowmarsh-Battle, *Berwick-Salome*, *Brightwell-Baldwin*, *Britwell*, (or *Brightwell*) *Prior*, *Chalgrove*, *Cuxham*, *Easington*, *Ewelm*, *Great Hasely*, *Latchford*, *Rycot* and *Lobb*, *Nettlebed*, *Newington*, with Berwick-Prior, *Nuffield*, *Rafford*, *Swincombe*, *Warborough*, and *Warpsgrove*.

The money raised for the poor in 1803 was 5115*l.* 4*s.* 4½*d.* making an average of 4*s.* 10*d.* in the pound.

The village of EWELM, distinguished by giving a name to this hundred, is situate about two miles north by east of the Henley and London road, and is distant from the city of Oxford thirteen miles. In ancient writings the name occurs as *New-Elme*. Leland thinks that the appellation was derived "from a great Pool afore the Manor-Place, and Elmes growing about it." The rich deep soil of the place is extremely favourable to the growth of elm-timber; and, from the frequency of such trees in the neighbourhood, it seems probable that the village obtained its name, unless it be ascribed to the Saxon Ewelme, which signifies the *head of a stream*.

Ewelm is a rural sequestered village, partly built on an elevated spot; from which desirable circumstance of site it commands fine and extensive views. From the ground attached to a house,

house, formerly occupied by the present Bishop of London, the prospects are remarkably picturesque, and embrace the windings of the River Thames, some of the richest of the Berkshire hills, and the long-extended and beautiful vale of White-Horse.

Near the church is an ancient mansion, formerly the residence of Sir Edward Cope, Bart. and afterwards of Sir Hildebrand Jacob, whose grandfather is mentioned with so much friendly esteem by the poet Dryden. In the time of Sir Hildebrand the grounds of this mansion were adorned with long avenues of venerable lime trees; but no Hamadryad interposed an efficacious prayer, and the hand of Innovation has spoiled them of their sylvan honours.

About the centre of the village is a chalybeate spring, once in great request with valetudinarians. The sides have been carefully paved; but all medicines for the nervous, whether natural or artificial, are doomed to short-lived celebrity;—the spring is now choaked with weeds, and rests for humble fame on the good word of the country people, who say that it is of sovereign use to weak eyes.

On the side of a bank south and by west of the church, was, in the 17th century, what Dr. Plot terms a *tautological polyphonous echo*; an echo that returned a word, or more, often repeated from divers objects by simple reflection. This echo returned the word three times; but as the buildings which produced the curious effect have been partly altered, and partly removed, the phenomenon no longer exists.

Dr. Plot mentions a spring which "runs lowest in the winter season, and advances in the summer remarkably higher;" but this also is no longer to be discovered.

At the foot of the hill on which the church is built rises a limpid spring that forms a small sheet of water, termed the *King's Pond*. It then finds vent into a beautiful brook, and meanders down the village to Bensington, through which the stream also passes; and, after proving the source of much adornment and utility

lity to both villages, it runs into the Thames between Bensington and Crowmarsh-Battle, (or Batterley.)*

At the time of the Norman survey the manor of Ewelm (styled *Lawelme* in Domesday) appears to have belonged to *Gilbert de Gand*: it afterwards formed a part of the property of the Chaucers. The last male heir of that family was Thomas, son of Geoffrey Chaucer, the poet. Alice, the daughter of Thomas, carried the estate by marriage to William de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk. With this distinguished, but unfortunate, family, the annals of the place are so closely connected, that a brief examination of their story will scarcely be deemed superfluous.

The De La Poles first grew into high notice in the person of Michael De La Pole, who was lord-chancellor of England in the reign of Richard II. and was created Earl of Suffolk by that king: but his elevation produced powerful enemies, and he died in disgrace and banishment. His son was restored, but shortly ended his life at the siege of Harfleur; and one grandson fell in the battle of Agincourt, leaving only daughters. William, another grandson, became the favourite of Henry VI. by whom he was first created Marquis, and, afterwards, Duke of Suffolk. This duke married Alice Chaucer; and, as Leland says, "for Love of her, and the Commoditie of her Landes, fell much to dwell in Oxfordshire and Berkshire, wher his Wife's Landes lay." He built a spacious palace at Ewelm; and, by him and the duchess two charitable institutions were there founded, and a church erected. Contemporary historians are so much biassed by party; and succeeding annalists so servilely contented to accept things as they find them represented, that it is difficult to disentangle the mazes in which the elevated character of a remote period is enveloped. It appears that the duke was of an ambitious temper; but, to be the object of court favour, was sufficient culpability in the esteem of so factious

* The word Batterley sometimes occurs in old writings; but Battle is the proper appendant. This Crowmarsh was held of William I. by the *Abbey of Battle*.

factious an age. The York party gained the ascendant, and Suffolk was publicly accused of treasonable practices. After he had replied to the articles alledged against him, he referred himself entirely to the king's order. Henry and the queen were unable to protect their favourite minister, and he was ordered to banishment for the term of five years. He embarked for France, but was intercepted by his political enemies, and was beheaded on the side of a boat in the year 1450. His duchess survived him twenty-five years, and probably passed the chief part of her widowhood at Ewelm, in the church of which village she lies buried. He also left a son, named John, who married Elizabeth, the eldest sister of King Edward IV. the issue of which marriage was John, Earl of Lincoln, whom Richard III. towards the end of his reign, was desirous of having considered presumptive heir to the crown. The politic wish of Richard proved fatal to the family which he was inclined to adopt; for the earl rebelled against Henry VII. and was slain at the battle of Stoke. This disastrous incident sealed the ruin of his house. His father shortly died, as it is said, through grief; and his brother Edmund, Earl of Suffolk, fled into Flanders, but was inhospitably delivered to the English king by the Duke of Burgundy. Henry promised to spare his life, and he was true to the promise; but he cast him into close confinement. Through all the long reign of the seventh Henry the Earl remained deprived of liberty, and cheered only by a hope that the succession of a new monarch would terminate his misery. His woes did, indeed, find an end when Henry VIII. assumed the sceptre; but they only found it on the scaffold. The king, with an appalling frigidness of casuistry, argued that the promise awarded by the crown was not binding when the regal trophy encircled a new brow; and he removed, with the axe, a forlorn rival, whose ambition may easily be supposed to have sunk into melancholy beneath the pressure of so long a season of solitary affliction.

On the attainder of the Earl of Lincoln Ewelm escheated to the Crown, and was by Henry VIII. constituted an honour; that

king annexing to it several other manors, among which was Wallingford, before an appendage to the duchy of Cornwall.

The Manor-place of Ewelm was built by William De La Pole, Duke of Suffolk, about the year 1424.* A fragment only remains to denote its former consequence; but we are enabled to ascertain the character of the edifice by the account preserved in Leland, who visited the spot in the sixteenth century. "The Manor-Place of Ewelm is in the Valley of the Village; the base court of it is fair, and is builded of Brick and Tymbre: the inner part of the House is set within a fair Mote, and is builded richly of Brick and Stone. The Hall of it is fair, and hath great Barrs of Iron overthuart it instead of cross Beams. The parlor by is exceeding fair and lightsome, and so be all the Lodgings there. The common saying is, that Duke John made, about the beginning of King Henry VII.'s tyme, most of the goodly Buildings within the mote. There is a right fair park by the Manor-Place."

A subsequent writer says, "that the Roofs of all the best Rooms are richly garnished with Decorations, as Skenes of Thread, Parcels of Cotton, Woolsacks, and several Devices relating to the Trade of Wool."

It seems unlikely that Duke John should make any important additions to the mansion during the perturbed state of his family on the accession of Henry VII. Each decoration of the roofs was probably a rebus, the point of which is now lost; unless we can suppose that the founder of the building allowed woolsacks and cotton to be introduced in compliment to his father-in-law, Thomas Chaucer, who is believed to have been engaged at one period of his life in mercantile pursuits.

Of all the "fair and goodly Palace" there now remains only an oblong piece of building on the south side of the site. This was used as a prison during the civil war of the seventeenth century, and has been latterly tenanted by a few antient persons dependant on parochial aid. The moat is no longer to be discerned; and the park has been for ages thrown into arable cultivation.

The

* Baker's Chronicle.

The church of Ewelm was rebuilt by William De La Pole and his duchess. On the south side of the chancel is the beautiful monument of the latter personage, Alice, Duchess of Suffolk. Her figure is represented recumbent, and is executed with eminent taste and delicacy. Numerous alabaster angels are placed around; and on her left arm is the badge of the order of the garter. The epitaph is now gone, but it is stated by Leland to have been as follows:

Orate pro animâ serenissimæ
principissæ Aliciæ Ducissæ
Suffolchiæ hujus ecclesiæ patronæ
et primæ fundatricis hujus eleemo—
—synariæ, quæ obiit 20 die mensis
Maii anno D'ni 1475, litera domi—
—nicali A.

It is to be regretted that modern taste has injured the fine workmanship of this monument, by various efforts in cleansing, scraping, and daubing, to improve the comeliness of its aspect.

Near the monument of the duchess is the tomb of Thomas Chaucer, her father, and Matilda, her mother, whose epitaph is likewise gone, but has been preserved by Leland:

Hic jacet dominus Thomas Chaucer
Armiger, quondam dn's istius villæ
et Patronus istius ecclesiæ, qui obiit
18 die mensis Novembris anno Domini
1434. et Matildis uxor ejus,
quæ obiit 28 die Mensis Aprilis anno
Domini 1436.

The rectory of this place, with a canonry of Christchurch, was annexed by James I. in the third year of his reign, to the regius divinity professorship at Oxford. It may be observed that the celebrated Dr. Prideaux held the rectory of Ewelm until he was nominally advanced to the bishopric of Worcester.

An hospital was founded at Ewelm for thirteen poor men and two priests, by Duke William, and his wife Alice. On this they

 bestowed

bestowed the name of *God's House*; and letters-patent were granted by Henry VI. in 1436, enabling both of them, or the survivor, to endow the charity with a sum not exceeding the yearly value of 200 marks; the pensioners to be incorporated, and to have a common seal. This hospital was valued in the time of Henry VIII. at twenty pounds per annum. King James I. appointed the regius divinity professor at Oxford, governor, or master of the institution.

The same noble benefactors likewise endowed a Free-school in the village; but this charity has shared the fate of most attempts in the early ages to impart education to the poor of a distant day. Since the province of instruction has become enlarged, the salary proves too small for its purpose, and sinks into a sinecure.

The Ikeneild-street passed near Ewelm; and, in the vicinity of that Roman way, by the accidental pressure through the soil of a waggon wheel, was discovered an urn full of coins, from the date of Julius Cæsar. Another urn, containing coins from the time of Trajan, was found at the distance of two miles from the village.* Ewelm gives the title of Viscount to the Earl of Macclesfield.

BENSINGTON (usually pronounced BENSON) is two miles north west of Ewelm. Here was an ancient British town, taken from the original inhabitants by *Ceaulin*, in the year 572. The west-Saxons held the place for two centuries, and appear to have constructed a castle for its defence; but it was at length reduced by Offa, the powerful king of the Mercians, who defeated his rival sovereign in a sanguinary contest. To the west of the church are a bank and trench, which seem to have been of a square form. Three sides of the embankment are now much defaced; but the part on the north retains considerable boldness. Plot mentions an "angle of King Offa's palace near the church;" by which he probably alludes to the same spot. Hearne says that bones of

* On Harcourt-Hill, in Ewelm-Warren. Hearne has given an account of these coins in his Preface to "Hemingi Chartularium, Oxf. 1723." The same writer supposes that there was some Roman building on this spot.

of men and horses, and old spurs and weapons have been dug up in the neighbourhood; but no relics of any interest have been lately discovered.

The village is situated on the high road, between Dorchester and Nettlebed; and several modern buildings evince its condition to be thriving. The church, which is remote from the chief part of the present village, and nearer to the bank of the Thames, is Gothic, and has been built at different times, with no great exterior consistency. The tower* is square, with an embattled parapet, and has a pinnacle at each angle, supported by a fluted stone pediment. In the brick flooring of the nave are some ancient stones, with mutilated brasses.

A Sunday-School is supported by a subscription among the inhabitants. The village contains a meeting-house for Methodists.

The small village of BRIGHTWELL, three miles from Bensington on the north-east, is ornamented with the mansion of William Lowndes Stone, Esq. The inhabitants of this place had the rare merit of preserving religious sobriety in the most trying of times; for Dr. Plot, dating from the latter part of the seventeenth century, says, that "there has not been known any such thing as an ale-house, a sectary, or suit of law commenced within the whole parish (which is of a large extent,) in the memory of man." We cannot, with truth, bestow precisely the same commendation at present, but a desirable sentiment of unanimity appears still to prevail among the principal residents. The parish has received considerable advantage from an enclosure, which took place in the year 1800. From this circumstance 225 acres of land, before entirely useless, have been subjected to profitable cultivation.

* The whole of this tower is modern. The lower division was built about forty years back. On digging the foundation a stone coffin was found, with a head place, the head lying towards the south. The coffin contained only mould; but some were willing to believe that it had formerly been enriched by the bones of King Offa.—That warlike monarch was buried in a chapel near the town of Bedford.

At *Britwell* (or *Brightwell*) *Prior*, an extensive mansion, the property of the Weld family, has for some years been occupied by nuns of the order of St. Clair, driven from France by the horrors of the Revolution. These ladies are about twenty-five in number, and are chiefly of English families. According to the rules of their order they are to use no attire but coarse flannel, and *sabots*, or wooden shoes; and are to abstain entirely from animal food. Their beds should be of straw. Strict ordinances, but religious enthusiasm has power to soften the hardest pallet.

And though perchance a casual tear
Fall for the convent once so dear,
Yet sweet contentment's patient smile,
Shall grace each placid cheek the while.*

These unfortunate devotees are doomed to still further wanderings: the proprietor intends to reside in the mansion, and the nuns are about to remove.

CHALGROVE is a considerable village, distant from the town of Watlington about four miles. On the 5th of January, 1727, during a tempest of unusual violence, the steeple of the village church fell to the ground. The tower contained five bells, which were all broken, but no person was hurt by the alarming havoc of the hour.

The chief interest of this village arises from the contiguous district termed *Chalgrove Field*, on which took place the action fatal to the bold and popular Hampden. The battle was fought on Sunday the 18th of June, 1643. At the instigation of a Scotchman, named Urry, Prince Rupert, with a chosen party, issued from Oxford, in which city the king lay fortified, on the evening of Saturday the 17th. Under cover of the night he penetrated to Wycombe, and there seized a large booty and many prisoners. He then ventured to attack a party of the Parliamentarian troops quartered at Postcomb, near the town of Thame, in which latter place the Earl of Essex lay with the body of the adverse

* Watlington-Hill.

adverse army. He was again successful; and afterwards struck across the country towards Chalgrove, having planned a circuitous route for his return to Oxford; and having taken the precaution to plant a guard at the bridge of Chistlehampton to favour his retreat.

When he reached Chalgrove Field it was eight o'clock in the morning, and he found that his measures had not been sufficiently adroit to evade pursuit. An alarm had been communicated to the rebel head-quarters from many neighbouring posts; and troops were quickly assembled to give chace to the fugitives: but, in the hurry of the hour, this force was collected without method. The strength of the enemy was undervalued. A crowd of officers, who had assembled at head-quarters, refused to wait for their respective troops, and mounted as volunteers. Rapidity was the chief object in request, and those who were first ready hurried forwards. The Earl of Essex, with a better organized force, prepared to follow; and he commanded the foremost to divert the enemy by skirmishing until he was able to advance to their succour: but this command was disobeyed. Prince Rupert's troops had partly entered a lane leading towards the bridge when his pursuers drew near. He immediately recalled such of the advanced bands as had not prisoners or booty in charge, and drew up his men on the open field, to the north-east of the village of Chalgrove.

At this momentous crisis the Earl of Essex was little more than a mile distant, but the zeal of those who had pressed forwards would not permit them to wait for his approach. They already exceeded the prince in numbers, and they attacked him in a furious charge: but their impetuosity was ruinous to their cause. Many of their best officers were slain; and those who survived were compelled to retreat, while the prince pursued his march to the bridge in triumph.

At an early part of the action Hampden was struck on the shoulder with a brace of bullets, which broke the bone. News of so important a circumstance was speedily conveyed to Oxford. One

of the prisoners taken in the action averred, "that he was confi-
dent Mr. Hampden was hurt, for he saw him ride off the field
before the action was done, which he never used to do, with his
head hanging down, and resting his hands upon the neck of his
horse." The intelligence was soon confirmed, and the rejoicings
on that occasion were greater than those for the victory. It is
believed that on receiving his wound he repaired to Watlington
(in the neighbourhood of which town resided his wife's father.)
He was afterwards conveyed to Thame, where he lingered in
great agony for nearly three weeks, and then died.

"Many men," says Lord Clarendon, "observed, that the
field on which the late skirmish was, and upon which Mr. Hamp-
den received his death wound, was the same place in which he
had first executed the ordinance of the militia, and engaged the
county, in which his reputation was very great, in this rebellion;
and it was confessed by the prisoners, and acknowledged by all
that upon the alarm that morning, after their quarters were beaten
up, he was exceeding solicitous to draw forces together to pursue
the enemy; and, being a colonel of foot, put himself among
those horse as a volunteer who were first ready; and that, when
the prince made a stand, all the officers were of opinion to stay
till their body came up, and he alone (being second to none but
the general himself in the observance and application of all men)
persuaded and prevailed with them to advance; so violently did
his fate carry him to pay the mulct in the place where he had
committed the transgression about a year before."

The most important events in the political life of this emine
man are too well known to need formal repetition; but it is i
possible to contemplate the last scene of activity in which he w
engaged, without entering into some sort of Biographical E
quiry.

The family of Hampden are supposed to have been original
Saxon, and they were seated for several centuries in Buckin
hamshire, where their possessions were extensive. Accordi
to the extract already given from A. Wood, it appears like
th

that John Hampden received the rudiments of education at Thame School; after which he went to Oxford. On quitting the University he removed to one of the Inns of Court; but devoted his time rather to revelry and pleasure than to the study of the law. A sudden change was effected in his mode of life by the growing fanaticism of the age. He restricted his familiar conversation to those who thought gloom a virtue, and termed innocent indulgence, licence; but his natural cheerfulness was not to be conquered, and he retained, under all circumstances, a most agreeable vivacity of manner, and an undeviating affability of deportment.

He sat in Parliament while young, and shewed wisdom by declining to enter actively on the senatorial stage during periods of inexperience. He first attracted the notice of the public by refusing to accede to the illegal demand for *Ship Money*.* In this refusal he was not singular. Many persons as obstinately resisted the imposition as himself. Suits were instituted against all the refractory parties by the Crown officers. The Lord Say, a vehement oppugner of the measure, openly requested that proceedings might be enforced against him; but the Court selected Hampden, and it was determined that his cause should be first heard and argued, on the result of which all other suits should depend. The issue is well known; and from this accident of selection "the eyes of all men," to use the words of Lord Clarendon, "were fixed on Hampden, as their *Patriæ Pater*."

The public attention was never more judiciously directed. He was calculated, by the natural graces of suavity, to win an easy approach to the heart. He had acquired the art of impenetrably

* A writ was directed to the different sheriffs, ordering them to provide a ship of war for the king's service; but with the writ were forwarded instructions that, instead of a ship, the sheriffs should levy on their respective counties a certain sum of money, to be returned to the treasurer of the navy for his Majesty's use. The sum of two hundred thousand pounds was annually placed in the king's coffers by this tax, for about four years.

penetrably disguising his motives and purposes, and had the skill of infusing his own opinions while he never committed himself by a verbal acquiescence in the sentiments of others. His regulation of temper was so entire, that he cherished apparent humility in the midst of popular exaltation. He was eloquent, active, and enterprising.

Between the period of his first introduction to notice, and that of the open rupture between the king and the Parliament, he said little in public; but appears to have been deeply and busily at work. With him are supposed to have originated many of those strenuous measures which led to so great a tempest in the state; but he made more noisy men his tools, and seemed to reserve himself and the full declaration of his powers for some crisis worthy the energy of a master-genius.

After the king accused him in the House of Commons of High Treason, his nature acquired a novel fierceness; "and certainly," says Lord Clarendon, "when he drew the sword he threw away the scabbard."

He entered on the civil contest as a colonel of foot, at the head of men attached to his person as well as to his principles, and was engaged against the royal forces at Brill, in Buckinghamshire, and at Edge-Hill.

Hampden is a favourite character with historians and poets; and in some respects he is deservedly so. There appears no room to call the purity of his intentions in question. Lord Clarendon insinuates that he might, at any rate, have been restrained from endeavours "to subvert the royal building, if he had been placed as a principal pillar of it;" but Clarendon does not wish to infer that favour from the Crown, even at the earliest part of national disagreement, would have been likely to lead him into any acquiescence, contrary to the dictates of his conscience.

All Hampden's expansive good-sense and constitutional vivacity do not appear to have preserved him from puritanical infection. He was one of those who wished episcopacy destroyed both root

and

and branch, and he was as familiar as his kinsman Cromwell with the pseudo-religious jargon of the age. *

According to the character drawn by Clarendon his talents were truly great. But it may be observed, that the assertion of this "honest chronicler" is Hampden's surest passport to the admiration of posterity, in regard to mental powers. His adroitness was of the silent nature, that depends for repute on contemporary observation. If Clarendon, and other writers of that era, had not informed us that he possessed such stupendous resources of mind, we should not have discovered it in the register of his actions.

His personal courage was undaunted, and worthy of the noble cause in which he was engaged; for we are warranted in believing that patriotism of the purest description induced him to unsheathe his sword. Courage is the only military virtue that he had an opportunity of exhibiting. He died when he was young in arms. It is evident that he had not learned the prudence necessary for a station of high command.

The hour in which Hampden performed the last act of sacrifice at the altar of liberty was in every shape unpropitious to his glory. He rushed forwards at the head of an ill-organized band, and had not even the satisfaction of losing in the shades of death the view of that defeat which his rashness had provoked. He was constrained by mortal suffering to *leave the field;* and he lingered for weeks, among perishing friends, the prey of all the weaknesses to which nature is subject in progressive dissolution.

The spot on which the battle of Chalgrove was fought has undergone

* A young Welshman, named Griffith, "of no parts, or reputation, but for eminent licence," endeavoured to make a profit of court favour, and solicited an appointment from the queen. On meeting with a refusal he joined the popular party, and became vehement in professions of patriotism. "I saw Mr. Hampden," says Lord Clarendon, "shortly after this discovery take Griffith in his arms, telling him *his soul rejoiced to see that God had put it into his heart to take the right way.*"

dergone little alteration. The soil is deep and heavy. The lane through which Prince Rupert retreated is narrow, and points a little to the north of Chisthehampton. Many memorials of the contest are occasionally turned up by the plough.*

Near Chalgrove is HASELY, a parish of some extent, composed according to an ancient division, of four parts; *Great Hasely*, the two small hamlets of *Little Hasely* and *Latchford*, and the *Barony of Ricot*.

The name of this parish seems compounded of the Saxon *Hasle* and the British *Ley*; signifying a wild uncultivated spot, overrun with hazels, or nut-trees. *Great Hasely*, from Milo Crispin to whom it was given by the Conqueror, came to the Bassets some of which family were afterwards Barons of Headington, in this county, and of Wycombe, in Bucks. The manor, (with those of Kirtlington, Ascot, and Pirton,) passed to the son-in-law of the last of the Bassets, Roger le Bigod, Earl of Norfolk. On the death of one of the Bigods without issue, in the reign of Edward I. the manor reverted to the Crown, and was by Edward bestowed on Thomas De Brotherton, his fifth son; but the first by his second Queen, Margaret. After various transmissions it became vested in the Pipards †, which family constructed a spacious manor place near the church. The male line of the Pipards being quite worn out, Edward IV. in the twenty-second year of his reign, bestowed the manor place, with the patronage of the rectory, on the dean and canons of Windsor; but the manorial rights passed to the family of Lenthal, in consequence of a marriage with a female of the Pipards. By the Lenthals the manor was sold to Sir John Cutler, Bart. well known for his encouragement of science, and one of the original members of the Roya

* One of these is in the possession of an innkeeper at Watlington;—dirk with a three-edged blade, the handle bound with horse-hair. Among the articles found are *Hatchets*, which had probably been prepared by Prince Rupert's party for the contingencies of their nocturnal excursion.

† It was obtained by the Pipards at the death of Thomas of Woodstock, Duke of Gloucester.

Royal Society. From this baronet it came to the Earl of Radnor, by whom it was sold to the Blackall family, the present possessors.

The elegant, but ill-fated, Leland was some time minister of Hasely. In a field on the north-west side of the village, a Roman urn was ploughed up, in the year 1723. This place contains a Free School, founded and endowed in the seventeenth century.

Little Hazely is a small hamlet, built on the edge of a green. The land appendant on this division was, likewise, at the Survey, the property of Milo Crispin; and, after various transmissions, came to Edmund Boulter, Esq. In Leland's time Mr. Barentine had here "a fair mansion-house, walks *topiarii operis*, orchards, and pools."

Latchford contains only a few houses, and probably derives its name from the ford, or passage, that is crossed by the way which leads to it from Great Hasely. The property was long with a younger branch of the Pipards. The founder of the Latchford branch of this ancient family signalised himself against the Scots in the reign of Edward III. In recompence for his services Edward conferred on him the honour of Knighthood; and to support the dignity he bestowed the manor of Latchford, "to be held of his father by knight's service." On the failure of male heirs, the before-mentioned daughter of the Pipards carried the estate, in the reign of Edward IV. to the Lenthal family. *

Ricot,

* For many of the above particulars, respecting three of the ancient division of Hasely, we are indebted to a manuscript by the Rev. Mr. De la Field.

This writer was born at Hasely, in 1690, of humble parents, and was sent to the village Free School, among the other poor children of the parish. There was then no house appropriated to the master, and the boys were taught in the church. In play-hours he improved himself in reading, by conning the inscriptions on the tombs; and thus originated a love for antiquities. He afterwards was put to school at Great Milton, where he collected an account of the successive rectors and curates of that parish. In 1717, after having vainly

 endeavoured

Ricot, according to Leland, " longid to one Fulco de Ricote It then came to the Quatremains. Richard Quatremain (who monument we have noticed in our account of the Church Thame) " was a merchant of London, and after *Custumar* ther He built a goodly large Chapel of Ease without the Manor Pla of Ricot, and founded ther two Chauntry Priests. This Foundati was begun in the Reign of Henry VI. and endowed in theReign Edward IV." He died without issue, and left the chief of h property to Richard Fowler, the son of a man who had been h clerk. This Richard dissipated the fortune thus easily a quired; and the estate of Ricot was purchased by the Heron f mily, who again sold it to Sir John Williams, afterwards Lo Williams of Thame. In the person of Sir Henry Norris, wh married the youngest daughter of Lord Williams, Ricot was con stituted a barony, Queen Elizabeth creating him Lord Norris Ricot. His daughter and grand-daughter were ladies Baroness b courtesy. James Lord Norris, Baron Norris of Ricot, had th earldom of Abingdon superadded to that title, both which honour his descendant now enjoys.

Ricot Park is an extensive domain, desirably adorned with a alternation of wood and water. The mansion has been recentl pulled down by order of the present Earl; but the chapel re mains, and has been repaired to continue as a place of burial fo the family; nor are the grounds yet disparked. The house a lately destroyed was partly built by John Lord Williams of Tham and had the honour of twice receiving Queen Elizabeth. One ab

endeavoured to obtain the mastership of Hasely Free School, he commence a private academy on a limited scale. He was subsequently master of th school at Stoken-church; and, having entered into Holy orders, became curat of Fingest, Bucks, and vicar of Great Milton.

He compiled a History of Hasely, which, if printed, would make about on quarto volume. His papers were purchased by the late Mr. Gough, at th sale of a Mr. Cooper of Henley, and are now in the Bodleian Library. He ap pears to have possessed invincible industry; but he was unfortunate in havin selected a subject of very limited interest.

she was conducted here by Lord Williams and Sir Henry Bedingfield, when on her way to Woodstock as a prisoner. On the second occasion she voluntarily visited the seat, on quitting Oxford, in the year 1592.

The village of NETTLEBED is on the high road, at the distance of five miles from Henley. A spot about half a mile to the north-east of the village, on which stood a windmill till within the last three years, is said to be the highest ground south of the Tweed. But, although the village is built on so elevated a site, the inhabitants are plentifully supplied with water by a land spring, which oozes forth with extreme deliberation, but has not been known to fail even in the driest summer.

The whole of Nettlebed has a pleasing and romantic aspect. At the entrance from the London side is a tall maypole. The church is a small and unassuming structure, with a square tower, or turret, the roofing of which declines towards the north and south. *Moritz*, the amiable German traveller, who ventured to proceed alone and on foot, through several English counties, without acquaintance, and with but very little of that circulating medium which acts as an efficient substitute among innkeepers for birth, quality, and connexion, passed a day and night at Nettlebed, and has bestowed an extraneous interest on the village by the blended simplicity and sensibility of his remarks. He was enchanted with the fine prospects commanded by the neighbourhood, and the rustic inn realized to his view the pictures drawn by our great Novelist, Fielding.

His notice of the church merits transcription:—" Nothing can possibly be more simple, apt, and becoming, than the few decorations of this building. Directly over the altar, on two tables, in large letters, the ten commandments are written. There, surely, is much wisdom and propriety in thus placing full in the view of the people the sum and substance of all morality. In the body of the church I saw a marble monument of a son of the cele-

brated Dr. Wallis, with the following simple and affecting in scription:

> The same good sense which qualified
> Him for every public employment,
> Taught him to spend his life here in
> Retirement."

Oliver de Standford held considerable lands in Nettlebed by the Sergeantry of the office of *Spigurnel*, or Sealer of the King's Writs in Chancery. *

Near the village is JOYCE GROVE, the residence of Thomas Toovey, Esq. This spot was honoured with a visit from William III. but the site was probably too elevated to allow of his usual expression when much pleased: "This place is truly delightful: I could live here for three days." Queen Anne also once dined at Joyce Grove.

DORCHESTER HUNDRED

Is separated from Ewelm by the river Thame; and, in regard to soil, is in the district of miscellaneous loams. This hundred at the time of the Conquest was much more extensive than at present; which circumstance was, perhaps, not owing to an scantiness of population in the neighbouring districts. The country was divided into hundreds, while Dorchester constituted a splendid and powerful see. The Bishop, for the convenience of his courts, might cause the hundred to be rendered so comprehensive as to embrace the chief of his local property. After the Conquest the See was removed to Lincoln, and the Bishop of the newly-formed diocese probably requested the formation of a fresh hundred (that of Thame) for his own accommodation.

Dorchester hundred now consists of the hamlet of *Fifield*, a

* Blount's Tenures.

the following parishes: *Burcott; Chistlehampton; Clifton-hampden; Culham; Dorchester; Drayton; Southstoke*, with the Liberty of Woodcot; and *Stadhampton*. The lordship is vested in the Earl of Abingdon.

The money raised for the assistance of the poor, in 1803, was 2363*l.* 5*s.* 8¼*d.* which forms an average of three shillings and sixpence three farthings in the pound.

DORCHESTER, though now humble in buildings, and depending chiefly for its precarious resources on the traffic of the high road on which it is situated, was formerly a place of great interest and distinction. Its consequence it owed to ecclesiastical splendour; and, when the pomp of episcopal dignity was removed, no local circumstances existed to stimulate enterprise, or to ensure the attainment of affluence to the exercise of industry.

Dorchester is termed by Bede *Civitas Dorcinia*. By Leland it is called *Hydropolis*; "a name," says Camden, "of his own inventing; but proper enough; *Dour* signifying in Britain "water." The circumstances of situation do, indeed, warrant this fanciful character of epithet. The Thame flows near the town on the east, and the grand stream, so arbitrarily denominated Isis, on the west. A junction takes place between the two at no great distance. On the site of this town was a Roman station, probably of extent and importance; and the place seems to have retained some notoriety during the ages immediately ensuing; but it did not reach the height of its prosperity till the seventh century, when Birinus, who was sent from Rome by Pope Honorius to convert the West Saxons, is said to have here first preached to them the gospel. Birinus had already baptized Cinegils, King of that people, on which occasion Oswald, King of Northumberland, attended as God-sib, or God-father; and the two kings, according to Bede, gave the bishop this town for the foundation of an episcopal see, in honour of the ceremony. The see was long of gigantic magnificence, comprising the two large kingdoms of the West Saxons

and Mercians. Twenty bishops sat here in almost Papal gra
deur; and, though seven bishoprics were at length taken out
it, the see still continued the largest in England, till about th
year 1086, when Remigius removed it to Lincoln.

During the periods of its wealth and dignity, the city was th
seat of council with several monarchs; but suffered much from th
incursons of various contending parties.

At the period of the Norman Survey there were here "one hu
dred hides, save ten. Of these the bishop had in his farm six
hides, save one virgate; and the knights thirty hides and o
virgate of land."

When Remigius, under William I. removed the see to Lincol
this town, according to Malmesbury, who lived at that perio
was small and ill-peopled; yet "the majesty of the church w
great, either by the antiquity of the building, or the diligence
such as had lately repaired it." From Malmesbury's statem
it is evident that the chief splendour of Dorchester was confi
to the early Saxon ages, and that the place was not able to
cover from the various ravages committed by the Danes. Ab
the reign of Edward III. the town gained some accession of c
sequence from the construction of a bridge over the river Tha
Until this period the great road had passed through Wallingfo
The traffic was now, propitiously for Dorchester, divided;
the inhabitants failed to derive any important advantages fr
the circumstance; and both Leland and Camden describe
place as destitute of trade, and reduced to the character o
village.

The town was formerly encompassed by a wall, which He
traces through its whole progress, "from *Wally*, half a
north from the church by the abbey spring called Collwell, at
same distance from the town, where he places a fort. On
east is the village of Warborough.* The walls run betw
Overey; thence south, where the great road now is, quite

* Gough submits a query as to whether this village was not originally
de Walborough.

the present town, and so on to Dyke Hills.[24] The foundations of the wall are still frequently turned up by the plough in several of the above directions, and many other vestiges of former consequence, though in the last and most obscure state of decay, are likewise discoverable. Hearne, in his account of some antiquities between Windsor and Oxford, says "that we are sure, even after the Conquest, there were at least four churches here, three of which stood on the south, and south-west sides of the Abbey Church." The greater part of this assertion appears to be formed only on traditionary authority; but, from the concurring testimony of many ancient writers, there undoubtedly were several churches in Dorchester during the periods of its greatest prosperity. On the north of the town, and on the right hand of the Oxford road, in a square piece of ground, termed the Farm-Field, may now be traced, in dry summers, the foundations of a building, which, by standing due east and west; and by the proportions, appears to have been one of these structures.*

On the south side of the present church stood a castle, of which every fragment has now disappeared. The road evidently deviated towards the site of this building till the latter part of the past century; and tradition yet bestows an allusive name on the spot.

To the south of the town is a circular field, which Browne Willis supposes to have been an amphitheatre; and, nearly contiguous, is a farm-house, called *Bishop's Court*, and *the Gyld*. On this latter spot the bishop's palace formerly stood; and, in Hearne's time, considerable traces of foundation remained. On the north side, at the distance of about half a mile from the town, are some ditches, called *All Ridge*, or *All Ditch Banks*. The

 word

* "Foundations of one of the churches," says Gough, in his additions to Camden, "might be seen as you turn up to the bridge, in the gardens of the clerk's house." We examined the premises in which it seems likely that the parish clerk lived at the period of Gough's visit; but could not discover any traces of such foundations. The cross mentioned by Gough as standing at the foot of the bridge, was taken down about thirty years back.

word *All* seems a perversion of *Old*, and the ditches are, probably, the remains of some fortification made during the struggles between the English and the Danes.

But the most interesting relic of past ages is contained in the extensive embankment termed *Dyke Hills*. This is a double intrenchment, about three quarters of a mile long, on the south side of the town. The banks are twenty yards asunder at bottom; and the perpendicular height is about twenty feet. The river Isis, in conjunction with the Thame, assumes some resemblance of a bow in this part of the neighbourhood of Dorchester, and the intrenchment ranges from point to point, as the string. The Dyke might, therefore, have been readily filled with water, and such an inundation does, in fact, casually take place when the river overflows its bounds. A road crosses the banks near the west end; and, having passed the river, proceeds up a hill, pointing to Sinodun Camp.

The conjectures are various concerning the period at which these intrenchments were constructed. Plot very properly declines to suppose that they formed any part of a Roman way, but thinks "them rather a fortification, such as P. Ostorius, pro-prætor here in Britain under Claudius, is said by Tacitus to have made on the rivers Antona and Sabrina; or else some of the outworks of the fortifications on Long Wittenham Hill," (a mile and a half distant, on the opposite side of the river, in Berkshire) "which, perhaps, was the Sinodunum of the ancient Britons." Dr. Stukely fancies them a British Cursus; and other writers ascribe them to the Mercians. Gough forbears to speak with decision, but says "that they may have been outworks of the station here; or may have belonged to King Ethelstan, son of Edward the Elder, who guarded the town against the Danes and in 958, held a council in Dorchester." If we adopt the former notion, and believe the works to be Roman, we may observe in support of our opinion, that a Roman road is said to have led to a ford at a small distance, near Shillingford, where piles and beams have been taken up. A considerable tract of land

the adjacency of the Dyke Hills has been recently put under the plough, and some Roman coins, though not many, have been turned up.

Near the termination of the intrenchment * is a spot called *Conygere*, which Hearne thought the site of a royal mansion.

Dorchester and its immediate neighbourhood have afforded an abundant harvest of *Coins* and *Relics*. Roman money of gold, silver, and brass, from Julius Cæsar to Heraclius, is discovered in unusual plenty. Several other articles of Curiosity are thus noticed by Gough:

"In a garden behind the church was dug up, in 1736, a small ring of the purest gold, inscribed with the year of Birinus' consecration, 636. In it was set a cornelian, the figure on which was supposed a mitre on an altar, or pillar, by the late Mr. Bilson, a proctor of the University Court, and rector of St. Clements, Oxford, to whom the ring was given, and who, after refusing twenty guineas for it, left it to Mr. Applegarth, schoolmaster. †

"In 1731, was dug up a small altar, with the following inscription, remarkable for the mention of the *Cancelli*, which Mr. Ward supposes *Rails* to inclose it as an altar for *Prayer* only, and not for sacrifice, it having no *Focus*:

I. O. M.
ET NMINB. AVG.
M. \AR. SEVERVS
B. CoS
ARAM. CVM
CANCELLIS
D. S. P.

* At the west end of the south banks were found, some time back, a skeleton, a mattock, and part of a cross. The bones possibly were those of some Eremite, who had fixed his melancholy seclusion near this spot.

† This ring is now in the possession of Mr. Philips, a carpenter at Wallingford, Berks.

i. e. Jovi optimo maximo
et numinibus Augustis
Marcus Valerius Severus
Beneficiarius consulis
Aram cum
Cancellis
De suo posuit.

"There have, also, been found urns and lacrymatories; te sellated pavements; and part of the shoes and cope of gilt lea ther of a bishop, falsely supposed St. Birinus, for his body wa removed by Bishop Headda to Winchester. Many of the thing found here have the marks of fire, which some suppose to hav occasioned the removal of the see to Lincoln." A part of crosier has, likewise, been lately taken from the bed of the rive Thame.

In the year 1140, Alexander, the munificent Bishop of Lincol founded here an abbey of black canons. A part of this buildin comprising a massive front wall, and a portion of an arch doorway, still remains, and nearly adjoins the present churc Some humble additions have been made to render this fragme tenantable, and it is now occupied by the master of a school i stituted by the Fettiplace family, for the education of six boy sons of the labouring poor of the parish. The master has salary of ten pounds. At the Dissolution the abbey founded Bishop Alexander was valued, according to Tanner, at 219l. p annum.

Dorchester has now only one church, but that is a spacio and handsome building. In the opinion of Warton no p of the edifice is older than the reign of Henry III.; and, from t character of architecture, there is reason to believe that t opinion is correct, although it would certainly appear surprisi that a prelate of so magnificent a spirit as Alexander sho leave the abbey of his founding destitute of a suited place sacerdotal ceremony. A great part of the present pile w

original

originally the abbey church, to which was united the parochial place of worship. "Since the suppression," says Leland, "one ———; a great rich man, dwelling in the town of Dorchester, bought the east part of the church for 140l. and gave it to augment the parish church."[2]

This venerable pile has a square and weighty, but rather low, west tower, with a turret at three of the angles, and an embattled parapet at the top. Near to the porch of entrance, and adjacent to the remains of the abbey, is a projection of stone-work, which contains four pointed, but vacant, recesses. In the church-yard, not far distant from the division of building thus ornamented with niches, is a mutilated cross; the shaft taper, and three ranges of kneeling places at the base. On the north side of the church are the traces of a cloister, which formed a communication with the abbey by a door at the west end of the north aisle, now stopped.

The interior of the building is seventy-seven yards from east to west, by seventy, in width, including the aisles; and the height about fifty-five feet. The whole is divided by two rows of Gothic arches, and at present consists of a nave, chancel, and north and south aisles. Both the aisles have distinct marks of an altar, and places for the holy water, &c. at the east end.

The mullions of the north window of the present chancel are carved to represent a tree of sacred genealogy. At the root lies the prostrate figure of Jesse, and from his body the tree is made to proceed. On the branches are carved twenty-four figures; and at the top, beneath a rise of flowers, was a figure of Jesus, long since removed. There are, likewise, sixteen figures painted on the glass, fifteen of which have a name appended.

In the compartments of the great east window, over the communion table, are various paintings, describing, in the old Saxon style, different passages in the History of Birinus. These curious relics of early church-decoration were formerly in the north window of the nave; but were removed, about four years back, to their present situation, under the superintendance of Captain Kennett, then residing at the contiguous parsonage house. The occasion

casion of removal was the danger from wantonness to which the glass was exposed; and much taste has been evinced in the mode of their novel arrangement.

Under the south window of the chancel are four canopied recesses, divided only by slender square pillars. Three of these were probably intended for the reception of the priest, deacon, and sub-deacon, during some parts of the high, or solemn, mass which was performed in the chancel. The fourth contains the *Piscina* used for the washing, or purifying, of the hands; and another receptacle for water.

The compartments of glass immediately above are filled with paintings, one of which has the inscription *Sanctus Birinus* * under the figure of a bishop receiving a cross from a king, another king standing behind. This, probably, represents the investiture of Birinus by Cinegils, at which Oswald, King of Northumberland, assisted. The colours of this curious little piece are rich and vivid.

The chancel within the rails is paved with glazed tiles, and the wall, on both sides, has been painted with various emblematical figures.

The whole of these pictorial embellishments, have been long whitened over: but the design may be easily traced through fissures

* Birinus, according to Bede, was esteemed a miracle of sanctity by the people whom he had converted. Camden observes, that the very old poet, who wrote his life in Latin verse, honours him with commendatory lines, which translated, stand thus:

A nobler theme than Hercules of old,
Or Macedonia's King; of one we're told
How he his foes to just destruction hurl'd,
And of the other that he wan the world.
Both these Birinus did; for he obtain'd
Victory o'er both, and then a greater gain'd
Over himself; and conquer'd, Conqueror reign'd.

The author of the History of Alchester at the end of Kennet's Parochial Antiquities, mentions a round hill on which a shrine was erected to St. Birinus, and to which the superstitious resorted for miraculous succour when their cattle were distempered.

fissures made by time in the covering. Lions, griffins, and various fantastical effigies, which, if they have not an heraldic meaning are trifling and misplaced, were the only subjects submitted to the severity of the white-washer's brush.

On the third pillar from the entrance of the church, a pillar now shut from the nave by a recent inclosure, is a carving called the five foolish virgins. This has evidently formed the bracket to a statue. The sculpture is much obliterated, and the design scarcely to be ascertained. The "virgins" are in various postures, sitting, kneeling, and crouching. Over the shoulders of each seems the rude representation of a veil; and to one is united a small figure, which Gough calls "an angel sounding a trumpet." This baby-semblance is unattired, and we could not perceive any vestige of a musical instrument. Perhaps some examiners might be tempted to believe the whole intended as a satire on an order of nuns that chanced to be objectionable to the black canons of St. Augustine.

The church of Dorchester is mournfully affluent, through all its precincts, in the ashes of exalted churchmen, and other persons of important rank.

On the south side of the church, in a part separated from the aisle by a screen, is placed the mutilated figure in freestone of a bishop, which was dug from the northern aisle, and is supposed to be bishop Aeschwine.

In different parts are "four stones, with a cross and brasses for abbots. A white stone, with a figure of a bishop, and inscription cut in black strokes, for Roger, Prior of Ranton, co. Stafford, abbot here, and Episcopus Lidensis, 1510. Another for Abbot Sutton, 1349, a hand holding a crosier; and another for Abbot Richard Beauforest." *

On the south side of the chancel is the effigy of a knight drawing his sword, a round helmet on the head, and a pointed shield on the arm. The legs crossed.

At the foot of this effigy is a tomb, concerning which both Leland

* Gough.

land and Dr. Stukely fell into a strange mistake. "Ther lyith at the feet of the knight," says Leland, "one Stoner, *sometime a Judge, (as apperith by his habit)* in the reign of King Edward III." The figure thus described is evidently that of a *Lady*, recumbent on an altar-tomb. The effigy is small; the hands folded, as in supplication, over the breast. The drapery of the attire is three folds deep, the outer garment descending only half way down the leg. The sleeves of the dress come nearly to the wrist, and are scolloped above the elbow. A kind of cloak is fastened round the neck by a band, and descends not much lower than the shoulders. The face is clearly feminine. On the canopy at the head is a cross fleure, and on the tomb four shields, with two bars indented, and a chief.

On the north side of the choir is a narrow and high altar-tomb, with the effigy, in alabaster, of a knight in armour, his head on a plain helmet, and a lion at his feet. On the surcoat is a lion, or griffin, rampant. Concerning this monument Leland says "Ther lyith a Knight on the north side of the Quier, whom the late abbot took to be one of the Segraves; the image was of alabaster; but, after, the abbot told me that he heard one say of late that there was one Holcum a knight buried." To this uncertain intelligence communicated by the abbot, nothing can now be added. It may, however, be mentioned, as an instance of the vanity of sepulchral honours, that the slabs of the monument are partly in a disjoined state, and nothing appears within but a very few bones thrown unceremoniously into one corner.

About the year 1750, a stone coffin was dug from the middle of the chancel, containing a body in gilt scolloped leather, with a pewter chalice; and a second coffin of a similar description, enclosing nothing but mould. A stone coffin was, also, dug from the south side of the church some time after the above; and, in the present year (1813,) another has been taken up, which is six feet four inches in the clear, and contained a skeleton, the skull resting in a head-place.

The *Font* is supposed to be of Birinus' time, and has been

said

said to be "the most ancient, and perhaps only one of its kind, in the world." * This interesting vestige is of cast lead, and is *not very large*. On the sides the twelve apostles are represented, each sitting in a separate stall. The figures are in tolerable preservation, with an exception of the faces, which have received some injury from wantonness.

In consequence of the former privileges of the abbey, Dorchester church has a peculiar jurisdiction over eleven parishes, and is exempt from episcopal visitation.

According to the returns made to Parliament in 1811, the number of houses in this decayed town is only 151. In the same account the total number of inhabitants is stated to be 754. A new bridge is now building, with Headington stone, over the river Thame, in such a direction as will considerably improve the approach to the town, while it frees the high road from an inconvenient curve. The ancient bridge is a mean and narrow structure, with recesses on one side to enable foot passengers to avoid the real danger threatened by the transit of carriages.

At the distance of a quarter of a mile from the east end of the embankment, termed Dyke Hills, is the conflux of the Thame and Isis, a circumstance so prolific of poetical allusion with the romantic writers of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. †. Near the conflux is a spot called the *Prince's Castle*. Here Chaucer

* By Stukely and Gough.

† The poetical origin of the word Thames (*Tamisis*) from this junction is said by Camden to have been first noticed by the author of the *Eulogium Historiarum*. Camden's own poem on the fanciful subject is well known, and it certainly does him little credit as a chorographer. The "marriage of the Isis," and Drayton's verses on the subject in the Polyolbion, have entirely led to the present popular error. It is singular that the two poets differ in opinion as to the propriety of *Sex* bestowed on their allegorical personages. Describing the approach of the nuptials, Camden says

> Now Tame had caught the wisht-for social flame
> In prospect, as *She* down the mountains came.

Chaucer is by some said to have had a residence, and by other merely supposed to have written some of his poems. The situation would certainly appear favourable to the muse; but the conjectures of both parties are raised only on very crude tradition.

The river Thames was made navigable from Burcott, a small village about one mile north by west of Dorchester, to Oxford, by act of Parliament, in the 21st of James I.

At Culham is the neat modern residence of J. Philips, Esq. In the vicinity of the village was an annual horse-race, till a recent inclosure placed the theatre of equestrian contest under the more beneficial operation of the plough.

The village of Chistlehampton is seated on the bank of the river Thame, at the distance of four miles from Dorchester, and is ornamented by the handsome mansion of Robert Peers, Esq. surrounded by about twenty acres of pleasure ground. A branch of the D'Oyley family was long seated in this village.

South-Stoke is a village on the margin of the Thames, between Wallingford and Goring, and is encompassed by the hundred of Langtree. The attached liberty of Woodcot comprehends a hilly range, partly under the plough, and partly stocked with beech, or used as pasturage.

WOOTTON HUNDRED

abuts the city of Oxford on the north. The extent of this district is much greater than that of any hundred south of Oxford and proves its former scantiness of population. Few division

With Drayton, Thame is the Bridegroom:

> As wee have told how Tame holds on *his* even course,
> Returne we to report, how Isis from *her* sourse
> Comes tripping with delight.

of the county are now better peopled, and none are more affluent in circumstances of natural advantage. The Isis, the Cherwell, the Windrush, the Glyme, and the Evenlode, all pay the tribute of their waters, and scatter richness as they flow, over fine tracts of meadow and pasture land. The inequalities of surface are often sufficient to bestow a variety of pictorial beauty, but are not so precipitous as to impede the labours of the plough. In the vicinity of the numerous mansions which embellish this district are frequently found large spots of useful and ornamental woodland.

Wootton Hundred contains two market towns, WOODSTOCK and DEDDINGTON, and the following parishes, townships, and hamlets.—*North Aston; Middle Aston; Steeple Aston; Great Barford; Middle Barton,* and *Steeple Barton; Westcott-Barton; Begbrook; Bladon; Cassington; Clifton; Coggs* and *Wilcott; Long Combe; Duns Tew; Eynsham; Glympton; Gosford; Hanborough; Hempton; Heythorp,* with the hamlet of Dunthorpe; *Hensington; Nether-Kiddington; Kidlington; North-Leigh; South-Leigh; South-Newington; Rousham; Sandford; Shipton upon Cherwell; Stanton Harcourt; Stonesfield; Tackley-Nethercott,* with the township of Whitehill; *Great Tew,* with the township of Little Tew; *Thrup; Wolvercot; Water-eaton; Wootton; Worton; Nether-Worton; Over-Worton; Yarnton.*

WOODSTOCK,

a town of high interest in many points of view, is distant about eight miles from the city of Oxford, on the north-west. Independent of the attraction gained from the neighbouring palace of Blenheim, Woodstock possesses undeniable claims on the respect and curiosity of the examiner. It was here that some of the most august characters of English History resided in chivalric pomp; and here Chaucer, styled from circumstance of precedence, the

the father of English poetry, and deserving of elevated ra
among his followers, on the ground of intrinsic merit, indulg
delicious flights of imagination; here wrote many of the poem
destined to transmit the character of his feelings to the sympath
of the latest posterity.

Old Woodstock, of which one venerable mansion, and a few i
regular houses of the inferior order, now only remain, was built
a sheltered situation on the border of the river Glyme. The pr
sent town is placed on a fine and healthy eminence, and a pr
gressive spirit of improvement is evident in every feature. Th
houses are chiefly composed of stone. Not any of the domest
buildings bear marks of great antiquity *; but such as appear
have stood two centuries, like all the provincial tenemen
of the same age, are irregular in construction, and mean in ch
racter. These, however, are few, and act as emphatical mem
rials of the enlargement of idea and improvement of manne
which have been the result of an extension of commerce. Th
majority of the buildings are desirably capacious, and many a
of an embellished and ornamental description. Among the la
ter class must be mentioned the Rectory House, the residen
of Dr. Mavor, a handsome stone structure erected by Bishop Fel
and the contiguous mansion of Pryse Pryse, Esq. Both the
dwellings command exquisite views over Blenheim Park, so ric
in circumstances, of natural and artificial beauty. Hensingto
House, situate near the entrance of the town on the Oxford sid
likewise possesses pleasing views, and is surrounded by well-orn
mented grounds.

The town-hall is a handsome stone building, erected about th
year 1766, after a design of Sir William Chambers, at the sol
expens

* An ancient domestic building near the church, comprising tenemen
called King John's Cottages, was pulled down about the year 1755. O
this occasion some old coins were found, and among them two of the Emper
Vespasian, with this inscription, highly preserved round the head: VESPA
SIANUS ROM. IMP. AUG. On the Reverse, JUDÆA CAPTA.

expense of his Grace the present Duke of Marlborough. Beneath the hall is a piazza, used as a market-place. On the tympanum of a pediment in front of the edifice are the arms of the noble family of Marlborough.

Woodstock is a chapelry to the contiguous parish of Bladon; and the original place of worship was a chantry, founded in honour of "our Lady," by King John. At the Dissolution Henry VIII. granted the church to the Corporation of the town; but the patronage is in the gift of the Marlborough family. The south part of the present structure is a fragment of the ancient foundation; and on this side is a round headed door-case, composed of red stone, and ornamented with chevron work. The northern face of the church was rebuilt about the year 1785; and at the same time a tower was erected at the west end. These alterations have been effected with considerable taste. The tower is of fair proportions, and charged with modest, yet sufficient ornaments.

The interior is arranged with decorous and respectable simplicity. The pews are handsome, and a good organ is placed in an appropriate situation. On the more ancient side three massy columns support pointed arches. In the capitals are introduced various sculptures of the human countenance, all dissimilar, and chiefly tending to a comic effect. On the north every particular of building is modern, and remarkable for substantial plainness; a character of architecture perhaps best suited to buildings devoted to a sacred purpose. The font is of a recent date; the basin small, and the whole of a chaste and delicate construction.

The tower possesses eight bells, with mellow and pleasing chimes, which go every four hours, and have a different tune for every day in the week.

The Register commences in 1653, and contains many entries of marriages between parties, strangers as well as parishioners, by the mayor of Woodstock, or by the person described as Justice of Peace for the incorporation, during the away of the Parliament.

Adjoining

Adjoining the church is a grammar school, founded and e dowed, in 1585, by Mr. Cornwell, a native of this place, und a royal licence from Queen Elizabeth. The master must be person in holy orders, and the Corporation are trustees. A cl ritable foundation of a more recent date likewise claims notic Near the entrance of the town from Oxford is a range of alm houses, erected and liberally endowed, in 1793, by Carolin Duchess of Marlborough, for six poor widows.

Woodstock has two manufactures; those of polished steel a gloves, from which it derives considerable benefit. The articl of polished steel are entirely made from the old nails of hors shoes, which are formed into small bars before applied to t various purposes of delicate workmanship. The lustre of t article thus tediously wrought is eminently fine, and the polish restored at a trifling expense, however great the apparent inju committed by rust. The price obtained for some specimens the Woodstock steel will convey an idea of the skill and lab bestowed. A chain, weighing only two ounces, was sold France for 170l. sterling. A box, in which the freedom of borough was presented to Lord Viscount Chiefden, cost thi guineas; and for a garter star, made for his Grace the Duke Marlborough, fifty guineas were paid. This manufacture was troduced by a person of the name of Metcalfe, in the beginning the last century, but is now much declined, in consequence of cheapness of the Birmingham and Sheffield wares.

The manufacture of leather into gloves and various other ticles was commenced at Woodstock nearly sixty years back, has progressively risen in consequence and esteem. About dozen pairs of gloves are now made weekly in the town and neighboring villages: and it is supposed that not less than si men, and thirteen hundred women and girls, find employmen various branches of the trade.

The internal government of Woodstock consists of five al men, one of whom is annually chosen mayor; a high steward recorder; two chamberlains, and a common clerk; with fif

cap

capital burgesses. The first charter of incorporation was granted by Henry VI. in 1453. This was confirmed, enlarged, or altered, by various succeeding monarchs, the last of whom was Charles II. who granted the charter under which the Corporation now act. A restrictive charter, forced upon the borough in the the 4th of James II. was soon after set aside by proclamation; and the charter subsequently granted is almost the counterpart of that of New Windsor.

It is shewn by the rolls of Parliament that Woodstock was a borough by prescription, long before it was incorporated. The place now returns two burgesses to Parliament, who are chosen by the mayor and commonalty. This privilege is given optionally; and it appears from a former charter that the borough "was specially exempted from being compellable to send two members, out of royal grace and favour, on account of the expense attending the exercise of this franchise, when representatives were paid for their services in Parliament."

As a mark of adherence to ancient customs, it may be observed that the festivities termed Whitsun Ales are still retained in practice. The ceremony occurs every seventh year, when the inhabitants lay claim to certain portions of wood from Whichwood Forest to assist in the celebrations of the season.

Woodstock has not a meeting-house of any kind for the reception of Dissenters; nor does the town contain any inhabitants who professedly dissent from the established church.

According to the returns of 1811, the number of Houses is 227, and that of the inhabitants 1419.

Woodstock gives the title of Viscount to the Duke of Portland.

The respectable borough whose present features we have thus noticed, prefers a claim to distinction at a very early period. King Ethelred, who began his reign in 866, is believed to have held a Parliament, or council at Woodstock; and his illustrious brother, the great Alfred, according to a MS. in the Cottonian Library, here translated *Boethius de Consolatione*

Philosophiæ. It is certain that the place was honoured by t residence of royalty at a very early date. *Rous* asserts the pa of Woodstock to be the first that was formed in England, a Dugdale appears to coincide with this opinion. Authors of disputed credit, and such as had the opportunity of personal servation, inform us that Henry I. entertained much predilect for the spot, and surrounded the park with a stone wall. T monarch either built or improved the regal residence, and pla in the park a collection of foreign wild beast, a novel app dage to the precincts of royalty which has been, in some sh cherished by his successors on the throne, even to the pre day.

That Henry II. resided much at Woodstock, and loved place, and passed there hours of romantic revelry, is known all; for all are familiar with the names of *Henry* and *R mond*.

The manor house, or royal palace, occupied a slightly vated spot on the border of the river Glyme (then a na stream, but since expanded into a magnificent lake) at a s distance from the grand bridge now thrown across the v within the walls of Blenheim Park. It was in this seat Henry is supposed to have spent the gayest season of his li illicit dalliance with Rosamond, the fair and unfortunate daug of Walter Lord Clifford. We refer an examination of the sto this ill-starred beauty to a page that will speedily occur page that treats of the spot on which she passed her first of youth, and which received her pallied remains when the p of indulgence was complete, and regal blandishment coul duce no more. At present be it sufficient to say that Henry constructed for her reception a *Bower*, or retired d ing at a short distance from the palace. No situation cou more genial to tender passion. The scenery was at once found and picturesque. Rich coverlets of contiguous wood se to deride the most inquisitive glance of jealousy or susp while a gentle stream, at the base of the dwelling, forbad app

approach of meddling and unhallowed footstep. It cannot be expected that any correct description of the building thus consecrated to love should now remain exant; but the house (or bower, in the language of that day) was well known to Chaucer. That writer draws the scenery of his poem intituled *the Dream*, from Woodstock Park; and he describes the bower as a white castle, seated on an eminence, and adorned with maples.

The whole circumstance of Henry's amour, especially when the youth, noble descent, and innocent education of Rosamond are taken into the account, was too tempting a subject to escape the embellishments of poetry, and the fond exaggerations of traditionary creators of marvels. It is probable that the gardens of Woodstock Palace, close to which was placed the house inhabited by Rosamond de Clifford, consisted chiefly of the Topiary work, so usual with the fanciful gardeners of that era. The remains of these twisted and unnatural alleys afforded a subject of happy allusion to fabulous chroniclers. Particulars of tragic pathos were easily fabricated: and hence from father to son; or, rather, from mother to daughter, have passed "strange tales," touching a bower erected by King Henry for the reception of "fair Rosamond," round which he constructed a *Labyrinth*, so artfully contrived that no stranger could possibly unthread its mazes. Here Rosamond was hidden from the "jealous queen;" but, unluckily, that dreaded personage discovered the beauty at the outward door of the labyrinth. Rosamond fled, but in her haste, she dropped a ball of silk; a part of which, adhering to her foot or garment, acted as a clue. The queen penetrated the recess; and, though at first struck by her beauty into amazement, compelled her to swallow poison.

Perhaps an apology is due for the insertion of this idle legend. There is no ground whatever for believing that Rosamond died out of the ordinary course of Nature; and it appears likely that she renounced all intercourse with Henry, speedily subsequent to the arrival in England of his queen, Eleanor of Guienne.

The site of Rosamond's house, or bower, is now covered with

velvetty grass. Some foundations of building were discover
"and various utensils, coins, and antiquities were dug up, a
presented to Lady Diana Spencer, by the workmen, when t
ground was levelling by order of the first Duke of Ma
borough."* Adjacent to the spot on which the dwelling sto
and in a dell screened on one side by overhanging trees, and op
on the other to a sequestered display of romantic scenery, i
basin denominated *Rosamond's Bath*. This interesting spot
a little westward of the grand bridge in Blenheim Park, and
only a few paces from the lake. The spring gushes from an
tificial aperture in the stones which line a cavity of the prote
ing hill, and is received into a capacious bath, paved at the b
tom, and on the sides with freestone, and fenced with i
palisades. The water is beautifully limpid; and various tre
fantastic and wild in their growth, embower the adjacent kn
and spread a pleasing solemnity over the retreat.

But in the connexion of King Henry II. with Woodstock
is not to be considered only as the youthful and inconsider
lover. Long after the romantic "bower" lost its fair tenant
resided in the palace; and here, in 1164, he received the hom
of Malcolm, King of Scotland, and Rice, Prince of Wales.

Edward I. called a Parliament at Woodstock, in 1275;
here was born Edmund, the second son of that king, from the
called Edmund of Woodstock.

Edward III. was much attached to this regal abode;
Woodstock is honoured as the birth-place of one of the brigh
characters in our national record, Edward, the eldest son of
monarch, termed the Black Prince.† Thomas, the sixth so

* Mavor.

† We have observed that Old Woodstock contains a mansion be
marks of considerable antiquity. This venerable abode was formerly c
Prince's Place, and is traditionally said to have been the occasional
dence of the Black Prince. The greater part of the house does not a
to be older than the time of Elizabeth; but some of the numerous r

the same king, was likewise born at Woodstock, and gained a surname from the place of his nativity.

Richard II. was frequently here; and, during a festivity held by him at Christmas John Hastings, Earl of Pembroke, was unfortunately slain. Among the *Memorabilia*, it may be observed that Henry III. narrowly escaped assassination in the palace. A priest, named Ribbaud, who was either insane, or feigned to be so, climbed through a window by night to the chamber of the king and queen. He was discovered while entering; and, according to Mat. West. was taken either to Coventry, or Oxford, where he was torn to pieces by horses. An attempt was also made on the Life of Henry VIII. by William Morisco.

It is more grateful to observe that, while the court sat here in full splendour, it was once graced by the contiguity of poetic genius. Chaucer resided for some time at Woodstock; and has finely described many circumstances of the neighbouring scenery, in his ever-living pages. The park was, naturally, the favoured scene of his rambles; and thence he drew many of the images which enrich some of his best productions. It is unspeakably pleasing to follow the wanderings of so great and venerable a genius, and to discover his best-beloved path by the tenor of his writings. "In the Poem of the Cuckoo and the Nightingale," it is justly observed, "we may trace his morning walk from his own house down the vale, through which the Glyme used to wind within its narrow banks, before it was expanded by art." This vale is indeed classic ground.

The house in which Chaucer resided was situated at the right angle of an area before the present usual entrance to the park. A considerable portion of the original edifice appears to have re-

 mained

may, perhaps, have stood four centuries. Attached to an outbuilding is a chimney of curious construction. It is circular, and hollowed from one block of stone, with slits, or taper cuts, to allow a passage for smoke. At the top is a conical roofing of stone, likewise perforated. This mansion was lately occupied by Dr. Mavor.

mained when Dr. Plot published his Natural History. But t whole of this interesting building was pulled down about hal century back, except one very small fragment, which contain diminutive, lancet-shaped, window; and a portion of some o offices, now forming part of a malthouse. The garden is lar and commands a good view over Old Woodstock, and the nei bouring division of the vale through which the river Gly pursues its quiet course. Several writers of respectability m tion a large folio volume of Chaucer's works, in manuscri which was chained to a reading desk in his house; and Mavor, whose knowledge of every circumstance connected w Woodstock much exceeds that of any other person, gives cre to the tale. The volume is said "to have been extant in the ginning of the last century, or the end of the preceding; but precise time when it disappeared, and what has become of it, totally unknown."

The "manor house," which we have hitherto found occasion regard only as the abode of dignified power, and the scene of gal festivity, was appropriated to a different use at one part the sixteenth century. In consequence of the political suspici entertained by Mary, Queen of England, the Princess Elizab was placed here in confinement, under the care of Sir Henry B dingfield. Trusting implicitly to historians who wrote under observation of Elizabeth, after she obtained a plenitude of pow we are apt to associate the ideas of rugged prison-walls, grated windows, with every mansion to which she was c ducted, when banished by jealous caution from a residence the vicinity of the court. Such a submissiveness of opinion certainly injurious to the character of Mary. In several stances a little examination will shew, that while histori pathetically describe Elizabeth as subjected to a harsh impris ment, she was reposing on velvet, and was attended by trains obsequious servitors. Her confinement at Woodstock was o more severe description than any she experienced. The fe of Mary were peculiarly excited by the conspiracy of Sir Thom

Wyat

Wyatt, and the servants of the princess were prohibited from attendance on her person. Elizabeth expressed great alarm,* and historians have been content to take her *Expressions* as authority for imputing real danger to her situation. While she was restrained at Woodstock a fire broke out in the room under her chamber. This fire appears to have been purely accidental; for it was promptly extinguished by those whom she denominated her gaolers; but many writers of the succeeding reign were willing to suppose that some diabolical purpose was connected with this alarm of conflagration. A princess of so haughty a spirit must needs have been indignant under circumstances of restraint; yet, during some hours, solitude undermined the native vigour of her reflections, and, on seeing a milk-maid pass gaily by her window, while attending her kine in the park, Elizabeth is said to have wept, and to have lamented that she could not exchange destiny with the most humble, so that she might enjoy freedom and content. The following lines, which were written with charcoal on the window-shutter of the room in which she usually sat, were evidently produced in a mood of more majestical determination:

Oh Fortune! how thy restlesse wavering state
Hath fraught with cares my troubled witt,
Witness this present prisonn whither fate
Could bear me, and the joys I quit.
Thou causedst the guiltie to be losed
From bandes wherein are innocents inclosed;
Causing the guiltles to be straites reserved,
And freeing those that death well deserved;
But by her malice can be nothing wroughte;
So God send to my foes all they have thoughte.

ELIZABETHE PRISONER.

Anno Dom. 1555.

* On the first day of her journey towards Woodstock, Elizabeth was taken to Richmond. At this place her peculiar servants were dismissed from attendance. On taking leave she called them together, and desired them to pray

The room said to have been chiefly used by the princess wa not destroyed till the early part of the last century. The roof wa arched, and composed of Irish oak, curiously carved, and painted blue, with sprinklings of gilded ornaments.

During the civil wars of the seventeenth century the manor-house was injured by assault, and ultimately still farther dilapi dated by rapine. This ancient abode of kings was defended fo his royal master by Captain Samuel Fawcet, with much skill an courage. Many of the besiegers fell during the conflict; an the arrival of commissioners from the king, empowered to trea concerning a surrender, alone prevented this intrepid officer fro burying himself beneath the ruins of the place, which was n longer to be defended with a hope of success.

The Parliamentarians, as it may be supposed, treated thi venerable palace with studied contumely. In 1649, commission ers assembled here, by order of the Rump Parliament, for th purpose of surveying the royal property. These fanatics mad the king's bed-chamber their kitchen; the council-hall they con stituted a brewhouse; and in the dining-room they placed, f the use of their fires, logs sawn from a noble tree which ha long flourished in the park under the name of the *King's Oa* But their triumph was soon interrupted by a combination strange circumstances which filled that credulous age with wo der, and afforded an apt subject of laughter to the era whic succeeded. Frightful noises assailed their ears in the nigh Dreadful phantasms glided before their eyes. Nor were their sig and hearing alone rendered subject to terrific visitations. Ma

rou

pray for her; "for this night," said she, "I think I must die." The s vants broke into tears and exclamations, and the gentleman usher went do unto the Lord *Thame*, in the Court, desiring him unfeignedly to shew w ther his lady and mistress that night were in danger of death, whereby h self and fellows might take such part as God would appoint. "Marry, G forbid!" quoth my Lord Williams of Thame, "that any such wickedn should be intended; which rather than it should be wrought, I and my m will die at her feet."—*Speed.*

round blows were given; their bed-clothes were torn in fragments; and sundry noxious ingredients were discharged on their amazed foreheads. The populace dignified the nocturnal operator with the name of the *Just Devil* of *Woodstock*.

It afterwards appeared that the whole was contrived by the ingenuity of an adroit and humourous royalist, named *Joe Collins*, who had procured the situation of secretary to the commissioners, for the purpose of imposing on their credulity. When the jest was discovered, Collins was styled the *Merry Devil* of Woodstock; but the affair was considered at the time in so serious a light that a Mr. Widdowes, then resident clergyman of the place, kept a diary of the wonders. This was afterwards published; and Anthony Wood says, concerning the publication, "This book is very impartially written, and therefore worth the reading by all, especially the many Atheists of this age." Dr. Plot was, likewise, staggered by the narration, and fills several pages of his history with an account of the proceedings. *

The

* A brief extract from Plot (whose narration is a counterpart of that published from the diary kept by Widdowes) will convey an idea of the transparent tricks practised by the just and merry Devil.—"November 2, came something into the withdrawing room, *treading, as they conceived, much like a bear*, which first only walking about a quarter of an hour, at length it made a noise about the table, and threw the warming pan so violently that it quite spoiled it. It threw also glass, and great stones, at them again, and the bones of horses, and all so violently that the bedstead and walls were bruised by them. This night they set candles all about the rooms, and made fires up to the mantle-trees of the chimneys; but all were put out, nobody knew how; the fire, and billets that made it, being thrown up and down the rooms; the curtains torn with the rods from their beds, and the bed-posts pulled away that the tester fell down upon them, and the feet of the bedstead cloven in two. And upon the servants, in the truckle-bed, who lay all this time panting for fear, there was first a little, which made them begin to stir; but before they could get out there came a whole *Coule*, as it were, of filthy ditch-water down upon them, so green that it made their shirts and sheets of that colour too." The noises ceased for a time. At length they came again. "Whereupon

The palace and its appurtenances were afterwards granted t various dependants on the prevailing faction. All the furnitu was quickly dispersed, and even a part of the materials of th building was exposed to sale. Many of the pictures are sti preserved in the county. The gatehouse was suffered to stan and was tenanted, at a subsequent period, by John Lord Lovelac captain of the band of pensioners to William III. who died 169 This lingering fragment was pulled down in the early part of th last century.

From prints and drawings still extant it appears that the palac of Woodstock was an extensive and splendid structure. The sit is now covered with verdant sward, and browsed by deer! O removing the last vestige of former grandeur, two sycamore tre were planted, which flourish with a prodigality of foliage, as if in tent on shewing to man the perishable littleness of his proude creations. On levelling the site of the manor house, in 1723, coffin was dug up, in which was found a gold ring, charged wit this inscription: "*Remember the Covenant;*" and it is men tioned by Dr. Mavor, that, "on moving the ground in the vicinit in 1791, several natural and artificial curiosities were discovere among the rest some coins of the Roman emperors." The sam writer justly observes, "that some of the intrenchments throw up, during the civil war in the time of Charles, are still visible o the brow of the hill above Queen Pool; and the parterres and kno of the ancient gardens are distinctly to be traced on the lawn, i front of Churchill's Pillar."

Fro

upon one of them (the commissioners) lighted a candle, and set it between t two chambers, in the doorway, on which another of them fixing his ey saw the similitude of a hoof striking the candle and candlestick into t middle of the chamber. Upon this the same person was so bold as to dra his sword; but he had scarce got it out but there was another invisib hand had hold of it too; and tug'd with him for it; and prevailing, struck hi so violently with the pummel that he was stunn'd with the blow. Then beg grievous noises again, insomuch that they called to one another, got togethe and went into the presence-chamber, where *they said prayers and sang psalm*

From the mournful contemplation of greatness "fallen from its high estate," we turn to the splendid creation of a comparatively recent era, and conduct the reader to

BLENHEIM.*

The honour of Woodstock, which had so long appertained to the Crown, was conferred on John Duke of Marlborough, by Queen Anne, as a testimony of royal favour, in consequence of great services rendered by that illustrious warrior and able statesman. At the same time the sum of half a million sterling was granted by Parliament, for the purpose of erecting such a palace for the duke and his descendants as should proclaim, in magnificent and durable characters, the exalted virtue of the hero, and the proportioned gratitude of his country. The victory of BLENHEIM, which was atchieved on the second day of August, was considered one of the most important of the numerous services performed by his Grace; and from the scene of splendid action the palace derives its name. As a species of serjeantry the most gracious to the favoured subject, it directed that "on the second of August, in every year for ever, the inheritors of his Grace's honours and titles should render Windsor to her Majesty, her heirs and successors, one shield, or colours, with three fleurs-de-lis painted thereon, as a quittance for all manner of rents, suits, and services due to the Crown."† This custom is of course observed with scrupulous exactness.

The

* For many particulars, assuredly the most interesting, in the following account of this castle, or palace, I am indebted to a work on the subject by Mr. Mavor, who, during my examination of Blenheim, liberally allowed me to use every desirable advantage from his very faithful and elegant publication.

† Mr. Mavor gives the following, among other abridged extracts, from the *Ancient Customs of the Manor of Woodstock*, taken in the reign of Edward VI.—"To the Manor and Honour of Woodstock belong seven demesne towns,

The usual approach to Blenheim from Woodstock is through a triumphal arch, or portal, of the Corinthian order, constructed under the direction of Sarah Duchess of Marlborough. On the side next to the town is an inscription in Latin, of which the following translation is presented on the face towards the park:

THIS GATE WAS BVILT THE YEAR AFTER THE DEATH
OF THE MOST ILLVSTRIOVS
JOHN DVKE OF MARLBOROVGH BY ORDER OF SARAH
HIS MOST BELOVED WIFE
TO WHOM HE LEFT THE SOLE DIRECTION OF THE
MANY THINGS
THAT REMAINED VNFINISHED OF THIS FABRICK.
THE SERVICES OF THIS GREAT MAN TO HIS
COVNTRY THE PILLAR
WILL TELL YOV WHICH THE DVCHESS HAS ERECTED
FOR A LASTING
MONVMENT OF HIS GLORY AND HER AFFECTION
TO HIM.
MDCCXXIII.

The

towns, or villages; *Hordley, Wootton, Combe, Stonesfield, Handborough, Bladon*, and *Old Woodstock*; the tenants of which are discharged from tolls in all fairs and markets, and possess other particular privileges.

"There are several kinds of land in this manor; *Demesne*, or *Bury Land*; *Free Land*; and *Customary Land*; the latter of which descends to the youngest son, or daughter, as heir.

"The customary tenants of Handborough, Combe, and Bladon, were bound to cut and make all the grass growing in Woodstock-Park, for which every township was to have sixpence in money, or two gallons of ale. The customary tenants of Hordley, by tenure, were to sweep and make clean all the chambers in the manor-house, as often as the king visited it, for which they were to receive two *castes* of bread and two gallons of ale; and the owner of the Manor-place of Combe, in like manner, was to clean all jakes &c. within and about the king's manor of Woodstock.

"The tenants of the seven Demesne Towns, and the town of Woodstock were bound to drive and keep the deer for view, as often as the king should come to his manor of Woodstock, or should order his game to be viewed by any other person.

"The

The advance to the building is eminently fine. On the right, embedded in a wide and deep valley, is a beautiful expanse of water, which meanders in forms productive of a ceaseless variety of picturesque effect. Over the broad bosom of this lake, or river, is thrown a stately bridge. At some remove, in front of the palace, rises a sculptured column, whose lofty proportions deride the growth of every tree that decorates its base. The distance possesses a captivating succession of wood and water, boundless to the eye, and involving pictorial beauties at every point. The approach is over a wide and open gravel road, which continues for a quarter of a mile, and which is judiciously made to deviate from a straight line, as if to allow leisure for the admiration inevitably excited, and to usher the examiner to spots commanding fresh displays of attractive scenery. As the closer vicinity of the palace is gained this road unites with another, termed the Mall, which leads from a noble entrance on the south of Woodstock, and is lined by double rows of forest trees.

When the northern, or grand front of the edifice is attained, the spectator is compelled to admire the genius of Vanbrugh, in spite of the ascendant which his fancy sometimes gained over his judgment. The whole display is impressive, vast, and august. No architect, according to the opinion delivered by Sir Joshua Reynolds, understood the *picturesque* of building so well as Vanbrugh. The majestic castle of Blenheim seems to prove the correctness of the assertion. The eye, without taking leisure to examine the various features which conduce to the result, is at once struck by a combination productive of unspeakable grandeur. The consummate skill in the perspective of architecture possessed

" The customary tenants of the Demesne Towns were bound to carry the hay growing on the meads in Woodstock-Park to the king's barn, for the support of the deer in winter, for which they were to have seven-pence a day, and to be allowed, on going home, to carry off as much hay as would lie in the bed of their carts."

It may be here observed that the whole of Blenheim is extra-parochial. The number of inhabited houses within the limits of the park, is stated, in the returns for 1811, to be fourteen: and that of inhabitants 121.

-sessed by the designer, kindles a correspondent zeal in the spectator's fancy; and, for a moment, we disdain all calculations respecting established rule, while we see such a stupendous assemblage of parts worked into a whole, so finely adorned by relief and harmony.

On a more minute investigation, those who look for faults, and square their judgment by the standard of the ancients, undoubtedly may find food for criticism. Such will point to elevations which hesitate between cupolas and towers, and properly are neither. They will direct the eye to the central compartment, and observe, that if measured with the lateral portions of the edifice, it will be found to want height, although it is by no means deficient in *weight*. These objections may hold good when the critic examines Blenheim as an architectural *drawing*; but, when it is viewed as a *building*, we discover so much sublimity of effect, that little disposition remains to analyse the sources whence gratification is derived. The central compartment, to which each portion of the building directs the eye and the foot, is certainly satisfactory in splendour, while it allows its full share of display to every subordinate division. No particular of the structure is thrown into a degrading shade: each appears necessary to the pictorial effect of the whole.

Two sharply-pointed lines, allusive to Sir John Vanbrugh:

> Lie heavy on him, Earth! for He
> Laid many a heavy load on Thee,

have predisposed those who examine this edifice to attribute to it a massiveness of weight, ill-suited to any domestic building. But the palace appears to be august rather than ponderous. It would, perhaps, be difficult to shew how so extensive a pile could be less weighty, without losing essential dignity. Respecting the cavils so often preferred on this head, it has been observed by Dr. Mavor, that "Vanbrugh deserves very considerable applause for his judgment in a circumstance which has principally exposed him to the censure of pretended critics; he has rendered

this structure characteristic, and expressive of its destination. Its massive grandeur, its spacious portals, and its lofty towers, recal the ideas of defence and security; with these we naturally associate the hero for whom it was erected, and thus find it emblematic of his talents and pursuits."

The general character of this front, as has been already suggested, is mixed and original. The extent, from wing to wing, is 348 feet. The whole is highly ornamented; and the centre is supported by columns of the Corinthian order.

The spot on which the building is placed is fine by nature, and ennobled by art. The site of the palace is sufficiently elevated to display the fabric to great effect, without detracting from its comparative magnitude. That lovely expanse of water, which is one of the boasts of Blenheim, is thrown in majestic meanders to the right and the left, its banks ever rising into ridges of hills that intersect each other with graceful sportiveness of form, some crowned with masses of wood, others clothed with the richest verdure, and only dotted with ornamental umbrage. Over the broad stream, directly in front of the palace, is the bridge before noticed, which in itself would seem a labour worthy of public industry. On an elevation, proudly, but not too loftily, pre-eminent among the concourse of knolls which adorn this fine domain, is placed the pillar, surmounted by a statue of Duke John, in a triumphal garb and attitude. To the right are seen the arches of a second bridge, which, at the first glance, appears constructed to astonish the spectator with an exuberance of costly and finished masonry.

The south-front of the building is a chaste and fine elevation. The scenery happily assimilates with the less florid character of this part of the structure; and all speaks of elegant and ornamented quiet. Over a portico of the Corinthian order is placed a colossal bust of Louis XIV. of France, taken from the gates of Tournay: a truly gratifying and appropriate embellishment! This bust is adorned with various military emblems; and, on the pediment, is seen the following inscription:

EUROPÆ

EUROPÆ HÆC VINDEX GENIO DECORA ALTA BRITANNO.

Thus rendered into English: "The Assertor of the Liberty of Europe dedicates these lofty honours to the Genius of Britain."

The interior of this noble pile is calculated to realize every anticipation of grandeur created by a view of its more prominent features. On entering the palace, through the superb portico in front, the *Hall* first demands notice. This apartment is of fine proportions, and ascends to the height of the building, sixty-seven feet. The roof is supported by pillars of the Corinthian order. The ceiling is painted by Sir James Thornhill, and allegorically represents "Victory, with proper accompaniments, crowning John Duke of Marlborough, as she points to a plan of the battle of Blenheim. The duke is depicted in a blue Roman dress." In the lower division of the hall is disclosed the part of a gallery, which runs to the whole extent of the mansion, and is ornamented with numerous family portraits, and with whole lengths of Clara Eugenia, Infanta of Spain; and of Queen Anne, by Lily. This splendid room of entrance is likewise adorned with two large family pieces, and some pleasing specimens of sculpture. Over the marble door-case that communicates with the saloon is a bust of Duke John, with a Latin inscription thus rendered:

Behold the man to distant nations known,
Who shook the Gallic, fix'd the Austrian throne.
New lustre to Britannia's glory gave;
In councils prudent, as in action brave.
Not Julius more in arms distinguish'd shin'd,
Nor could Augustus better calm mankind.

In niches near the angles beneath the gallery are the Medicean Venus and the Dancing Fawn, executed in bronze by Maximilian Soldani Benzi, from the originals in the collection of the Grand Duke of Tuscany. On a black marble slab is placed a Diana and Dog, fine and antique; and, opposite, is a vase,

with figures in relievo, from the antique, supposed to represent the nuptual ceremonies of the Romans.

The *Bow-Window Room* is the next to which visitors are conducted. In this room is seen some of the unrivalled tapestry which decorates the palace of Blenheim. The subjects here treated are the battles of *Blenheim* and *Wynandael;* the principal action of the first being confined to the taking of Marshal Tallard. The design is good, the colouring extremely vivid, and the lights and shades disposed with most felicitous effect;

> So lively glows
> The fair delusion, that our passions rise
> In the beholding, and the glories share
> Of visionary battle.*

The cieling is painted, and ornamented with military emblems, by Hakewill. The window-curtains and furniture are blue silk damask This room is likewise adorned with numerous pictures, among which are a fine combination, representing the Virgin and Child, St. John and St. Nicholas, by Raphael. This estimable piece formerly belonged to the *Capella degli Ansidei* at *Perrugia.* St. Jerome studying, by Giorgioni. A Female Head by Reubens; a Madona and Child by Leonardo da Vinci; a Man's Head, by Titian, very fine; a Battle Piece by Wouvermans. Here are also two drawings by Cipriani, for frontispieces to the first and second volumes of the *Gemmæ Marlburienses.*

The following are some of the productions of the pencil which enrich the *Duke's Dressing-Room:*—Our Saviour in the Virgin's Lap, crowning two female Martyrs, by Titian; two pieces by Murillio, on his favourite subject, Beggar Boys; a fine Holy Family by Reubens; and a Sleeping Venus and Satyr, with attending Cupids, from the school of the same artist.

The *East Drawing-Room* is hung with crimson damask, and contains, among other paintings, a highly-finished Bacchanalian Piece; Andromeda chained to the Rock; Reubens, with his

* Dyer's Fleece.

his Wife and Child, a present to the first Duke by the City of Brussells; and the Offering of the Magi; all by Reubens. The portraits of himself and family possess much spirit and beauty of colouring. The Annunciation, by Corregio; the Death of the Virgin Mary, by Guido; a Landscape, Paul Brylle; a Holy Family, "supposed by Raphael, in his earliest style of painting, a present from the Town of Ghent;" a small Landscape, by Claude Lorrain; Philip II. King of Spain, a whole length, by that sovereign's favourite painter, Titian; and the following, among numerous portraits, by Vandyke: the Duchess of Buckingham and Offspring; Charles I.; Queen Henrietta Maria, a delicate and pleasing figure, delineated before care had corroded the countenance, which possessed sufficient beauty to plead an excuse for the uxoriousness that Mrs. Macaulay is pleased to attribute to the royal husband as a vice. The dress is white sattin, tastefully ornamented with lace.

The *Grand Cabinet* is a magnificent apartment, "which opens to the east and south, and commands the most charming scenery. The hangings and furniture are rich crimson damask, with gilding of corresponding splendour: in the centre of the cieling is a large circular gilt plume. Over the chimney-piece stand the listening Slave, and a crouching Venus in bronze." The paintings in this room are of a most rare and excellent description. The productions of Reubens here preserved are calculated to add dignity to the noblest mansion ever reared by national gratitude. The following pieces are all by that great master:—A Holy Family. The Offering of the Magi. Our Saviour blessing the Children. Filial Affection, exemplified in the Roman Daughter;" not even the skill of Reubens can render this subject pleasing on canvas. As a legend the moral is unquestionably fine; but the portraiture of manly dignity degraded to the pittance of a child's dole; of suppliant anility drawing sustenance from the bosom due to a new creation, offends the eye by an incongruity of images, and seems injurious to the prerogative of nature. Lot's Departure out of Sodom, a fine picture, the colouring

louring extremely rich. This piece was presented by the town of Antwerp. The return of Our Saviour from Egypt. A Portrait of Paracelsus.

This room is likewise adorned by a Madona, her head encircled with stars, supposed the miraculous conception, by Carlo Dolce. Perhaps elegance of taste, and enthusiasm of genius, never bestowed so exquisite an expression on the image of the "human face divine." The attitude is unspeakably graceful and winning. The tints are admirably disposed; and the whole picture worthy of an association with the best productions of a Reubens.

A Madona standing on a Globe, surrounded by Angels, by Carlo Maratti. Raphael's favourite Dorothea, by himself. Pope Gregory, and a Female Penitent bearing a palm branch, by Titian. A Holy Family, by Ludovico Caracci.

The hangings of *The Blue Drawing-Room* are of damask, with ornamental gilt bordures. The paintings in this apartment are numerous; among which, the following, possibly, possess the greatest interest:—

Our Saviour and St. John: Carlo Dolce.

The Woman taken in Adultery: Rembrandt.

Isaac blessing Jacob, by the same master. The colouring parcularly fine and mellow.

Catharine of Medicis, by Reubens, an admirable portrait. Every line of the countenance piercingly expressive of the malevolence unhappily rendered habitual to the original. The dress, black, with a pointed ruff.

Dorothy, Countess of Sunderland, the Sacharissa of Waller, by Vandyke.

A small Family Piece, by Gonzales.

Two Landscapes, by Gaspard Poussin. The Duchess purchased the works of this master at any price.

A Landscape, by Wouvermans, in his best manner.

A Holy Family, by Ludovico Caracci.

A Collection of Miniatures, inclosed in one frame, contains three of Mary Queen of Scots.

The *Winter Drawing-Room* is hung with tapestry representing the four cardinal virtues, Fortitude, Prudence, Justice, and Temperance, with characteristic emblems and embellishments. Different parts of the room are adorned with bronzes of Cupids, and of Hercules killing the Centaurs. In the centre of the chimney-piece is an alto-relievo of Cupid and Psyche's Marriage, from the antique of Tryphon. There are only three paintings in this apartment; but the tapestry which covers the sides may almost be said to rival the efforts of the pencil.

Over the first door-way is Vandyke's celebrated portrait of Lord Stafford, attended by his secretary. The countenance of this ill-fated nobleman expresses deep thought; but, by some, it may be conjectured that there is more of harshness in the features, and less of dignity in the general manner, than would be expected. The execution of the piece is truly great. There are three pictures on this subject in the kingdom. Concerning that preserved at Wentworth-house, in Yorkshire, Lord Orford says, "I can forgive Vandyke any insipid portraits of perhaps insipid people, when he shewed himself capable of conceiving and transmitting the idea of the greatest man of the age."—It may be observed that the credit of Vandyke, as a delineator of character, does not rest on this single picture. In various instances, easy to be enumerated, he has proved that few painters were more capable of conveying "the ideas" of energy of mind and elevation of sentiment.

Over the chimney is a portrait of Mary Duchess of Richmond, with a little girl presenting her gloves; and, over the second door, are two portraits, on one canvas, of Mrs. Morton and Mrs. Killigrew; both which pieces are likewise by Vandyke.

The *Dining-Room* is "an apartment well adapted for its destination, being large, lofty, and commodiously situated near the centre of the palace. The ceiling is richly stuccoed; and the sides are wainscotted in large pannels, painted white." This room is adorned by the following paintings:

Lot and his Daughters, by Reubens: a fine picture, presented by the Emperor of Germany.

Venus and Adonis, by the same artist, and a present from the same potentate. The colouring admirable, but the figure of Venus clumsy and unpleasing. Reubens had been so much praised for painting beautiful flesh, that he thought he could not bestow too much on an unattired object.

The Rape of Europa, by Paul Veronese.

Cattle and Figures, an excellent performance, by Castiglione.

Several small Landscapes by Wootton, executed with taste and spirit.

The present Duke and Duchess of Marlborough, with six of their Children, by Sir Joshua Reynolds. The grouping fine; and the figures, as usual with Sir Joshua, delineated in the highest possible point of character. We learn from Dr. Mavor that the sum of seven hundred guineas was paid for this family piece.

Vandyke has two pictures in this apartment: a Bacchanalian piece, and a whole length portrait of Queen Henrietta Maria. Either from a temporary want of professional zeal in the artist, or from the operation of an unpropitious humour in the subject delineated, the queen appears less pleasing in this picture than in the half-length noticed in the east drawing-room: yet the general effect of figure is far from being destitute of attraction. When we recollect the strenuous political measures advised by this queen, and reflect on the bold and masculine letters written to her consort, we feel surprise at beholding so slender and soft-charactered a form.

The *Saloon* "is a noble and spacious apartment, which communicates with the hall, and, together with it, occupies the entire breadth of the centre." The lower division of this room is lined with marble; and its four door-cases are composed of the same material. Over each door are the arms of the first duke. Above the marble basement are six compartments, painted in a singular, and not very gratifying style, by La Guerre. These paints profess to "represent different nations of the world, in their characteristic dresses and contours;" but the whole consist of indi-

vidual caricatures; and, unfortunately, of caricatures displaying little strength of humour. They are shewn in the following manner:—

I. The Painter,—French, English, and Scotch. "The portrait of the Englishman, which possesses much rubicundity and portliness," according to Dr. Mavor, "is believed to represent Dean Jones, chaplain to Sarah Duchess of Marlborough."

II. Spaniards.

III. Moors and Negroes.

IV. Chinese and Tartars.

V. Turks.

VI. Dutch and Swedes.

The ceiling is at the height of the building, and is painted by La Guerre with more felicity of design and effect. This ornamented portion of the apartment "emblematically represents John Duke of Marlborough, in the career of victory, arrested by the hand of *Peace*, while *Time* reminds him of the rapidity of his own flight."

In different parts of the saloon are antique busts of Caracalla, and of a Roman Consul; a sculptured Sleeping Venus, and a Cleopatra with the Asp.

The *Green Drawing-Room* is hung with excellent tapestry, representing the Battle of *Dunnewert*; the Battle of *Lisle*; the *Siege* of Lisle; and the Battle of *Malplaquet*. The labours of the loom, however, do not engross the whole apartment; and the following productions of the pencil are selected with much taste, to bestow a last polish on the embellishments:—

A Portrait of a Juvenile Knight of St. John of Jerusalem, by Barroccio. Very fine.

Meleager and Atalanta, an exquisite picture by Reubens.

The Adoration of the Shepherds, by Lucca Giordano.

The Offering of the Magi, by the same master.

A Madona and Child, by Nicholas Poussin.

Figures, encircled with wreaths of flowers, by Rottenhammer.

A Holy

A Holy Family, by Nicholas Poussin; and a highly-finished Portrait of the late Duchess of Marlborough, by Romney.

The *State Drawing-Room* has been recently furnished and decorated with much elegance. The curtains and furniture are white damask. The sides are hung with the original tapestry, and contain representations of the March to *Bouchain*, and the Siege of that place. In this latter piece, General, afterwards Lord, Cadogan, is a conspicuous figure; nor is the dog forgotten which attended that general through his perilous campaigns, and returned to end his days in ease at Caversham.

Over the chimney is a portrait, by Romney, of the present Duke, in his garter robes. A mezzotinto from this portrait has been executed by Jones.

The room is likewise ornamented with a Fruit Piece, by Lucca Giordano; and St. Lawrence distributing the Ornaments of the Altar, by Il Prete Genoese.

The furniture and hangings of the *State Bed-Chamber* are of blue damask, interlaced with gold. The top of the bed-frame rises into a dome, surmounted by a ducal coronet; and the extremities of the bed-posts are ornamented with military emblems. At the head are the family arms.

Over the chimney-piece is a painting, by Lucca Giordano, representing Seneca bleeding to death, "while, with philosophic composure, he dictates to his amanuensis." This picture is not so large as that on the same subject at Burleigh; nor are the figures so numerous. The action represented is too dreary to admit of much contemplation. The hero, who expires in the cause of his country, is viewed with sympathy and admiration, while his armed form reposes on the sod, however deeply that sod may be stained with blood; and we gaze with enthusiastic veneration on the dying countenance of Socrates, while we see the philosopher's cloak wrapped round him in majestic self-dependance; but the frightful whiteness of Seneca's flesh, robbed almost of the last vital drop, inspires horror in so unmixed a

modification, that we shudder, and forget to look for the fine emanation of soul depictured in the features.

There are several other paintings in this room, one of which is a highly finished-portrait of Edward VI. by Holbein.

The *Library* "occupies the entire west front, is upwards of 183 feet long, and is thirty-one feet nine inches wide in the centre." This very spacious room is truly magnificent. The basement is of black marble; and solid columns of veined marble support a rich entablature. Pilasters of the Doric order are liberally interspersed; and the vaulted ceiling is divided into compartments by stucco-work.

This gallery was originally intended for the reception of paintings, but "has since been furnished with the grand Sunderland collection of books, comprising upwards of seventeen thousand volumes, in various languages, arts, and sciences; all arranged in elegant cases, with gilt wire latticed doors, on the east side through its whole extent, and along the two ends. Few private collections are equal to this in value, the whole being reckoned worth 30,000 pounds."

Sculpture and painting, however, unite with literature, to add charms to this grand room. At the upper end is placed, with graceful propriety, a white marble statue of Queen Anne, in her coronation robes, by Rysbrack. On the pedestal is this inscription:

To the Memory of Queen Anne!
Under whose Auspices
John Duke of Marlborough
Conquered,
And to whose Munificence
He and his Posterity
With Gratitude
Owe the Possession of Blenheim
A.D. MDCCXXVI.

At

At the opposite termination of the gallery is a fine bust of Alexander the Great, dug from the ruins of Herculaneum, and supported by an elegant modern Therm, designed by Sir William Chambers. On the west side is an antique statue, inscribed *Julia Domna*, and a *Diana and Dog*. Several busts adorn the book-cases, the chimney-pieces, and the entrance.

The paintings are chiefly portraits; among which must be noticed,

John, Duke of Marlborough, partly in armour, with brown leather buskins. A baton in his hand.

Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough. The face youthful, and possessed of much beauty. The form graceful. This distinguished female has shared the common fate of high political characters; her errors of temper have been written in brass, and her best virtues have been attributed to motives of courtly prudence. Her great ductility of talent must be allowed by all. With little education,* for lettered knowledge was almost deemed disreputable to the women of her æra, she long maintained an ascendant in the political world, with triumphant splendour. Few females so circumstanced have shewn less vanity of power. Fond of rule, she resolutely refrained from entering into any measure injurious to the constitution. She was, indeed, a steady and ardent supporter of the liberties of her country. Though fond of money, her bounty was of a princely character. Hooke, the author of the Roman History, at the recommendation of Lord Chesterfield, arranged for her grace those memoirs which she intended to represent her life in fair colours to posterity. He waited on her when she was feeble and confined to her bed, but she had sufficient energy of mind to dictate to him for the term of six hours. The love of money is justly supposed to increase in a ratio with the failure of other accustomed passions; but, when Hooke had

* Speaking of herself, at the period of the revolution, she confesses that "she had never read, nor employed her time in any thing but playing at cards."

had performed his task, the duchess presented him with the sum of five thousand pounds.*

King William.

Queen Anne.

Charles, Duke of Marlborough.

The Duke of Montague.

Lord Godolphin.

The bow-windows, on the west of the library, command fine views over the winding descent to the lake, and the woodland scenery beyond.

The Chapel is entered by a piazza, situated in the western wing of the palace. The interior of this building is conspicuous for an appropriate temperance of decoration. No gilded mouldings delude the eye, and sin against the gravity of the place. Compartments of sober grey woo to sedateness of thought, and not any unsuited object interrupts solemnity of reflection.

After witnessing memorials of the career of greatness, and attending the mighty Duke John through the woven imagery of his exploits, we are now called to draw a moral from that bourn to which the "paths of honour do but lead." On the right of the chapel is a piece of sculpture, that constitutes its chief ornament...the monument of the first duke and duchess.

This superb performance is the work of Rysbrack. The subjects of sepulchral honour are represented in marble, with their two sons who died young. Colossal figures, emblematic of fame and history, support their effigies; and the pen of history is supposed to have traced on a tablet, which she holds in the other hand, this inscription:

To the Memory
Of John Duke of Marlborough and
His two Sons
His Duchess has erected
This Monument
In the Year of Christ, MDCCXXXIII.

Beneath

* Maty's Memoirs of Lord Chesterfield.

Beneath is a basso relievo, illustrative of the capture of Marshal Tallard. The family vault is constructed under the monument.

The chapel possesses an altar piece, representing our Saviour's Descent from the Cross, by Jordaens of Antwerp; and over the chimney is a small, but curious, painting on black marble, by Alessandro Veronese.

Such are the apartments usually open to public inspection. It will be observed that a correct and fine taste is conspicuous throughout. No meretricious embellishments seek to captivate the ordinary eye, by glitter. Every charm is produced by the legitimate means of grand proportion and finished art. The rooms appropriated to family residence are on a scale equally magnificent, and are abundantly ornamented with the productions of genius. The pictures are numerous and valuable, and the library contains a great variety of rare and curious books. Near the eastern angle of the building is a commodious observatory, erected by the present duke, and furnished with the best astronomical apparatus, by Ramsden. A grand telescope, by Herschell (now in the library) was presented by his Majesty, shortly after the royal visit to Blenheim in 1786.

The palace is entered on the east, * by an arcaded quadrangle, consisting chiefly of offices; but, on the left, is a division of building, originally a green-house, though now formed into a theatre. The embellishments are extremely pleasing, and there are seats for two hundred persons, independent of the side-boxes. It is, however, long since any dramatic pieces were performed in this building.

Adjoining the theatre is an apartment dedicated to the reception of nine pictures, by Titian, presented by Victor Amadeus, King of Sardinia, to John, Duke of Marlborough. These paintings were long hidden from public view, and are now "displayed chiefly

* Over the eastern gate is a reservoir, capable of containing five hundred hogsheads of water. This water supplies the house, and is raised by an engine on Aldersea's construction, erected in old Woodstock Mill.

chiefly for the sake of amateurs in the pictorial art." The subjects are Mars and Venus. Cupid and Psyche. Apollo and Daphne. Pluto and Proserpine. Hercules and Dejanira. Vulcan and Ceres. Bacchus and Ariadne. Jupiter, Juno, and Io. Neptune and Amphitrite.

The figures much exceed the size of nature, and no opportunity for delicacy of colouring is lost by the intervention of envious drapery. As usual with Titian in his attempts to delineate female beauty, the design is not equal to the spirit of the execution; yet some of the figures certainly possess much grace, and every art is practised to render them attractive. These paintings are on leather, and cover three sides of the room, though they are only enclosed in a temporary frame-work of reeded moulding. The whole are in high preservation, and have been justly said "almost to form a school of themselves."

The princely district enclosed by walls, as a demesne-appendage to the castle, comprises about two thousand seven hundred acres. The circumference is said to be upwards of twelve miles. This extensive tract admits of the following divisions:—the space which lies *without* the river has received the appropriate appellation of the *Great* Park; the lands chiefly surrounded by water are termed the *Little* Park. In the latter portion are *the gardens*, which contain two hundred acres of decorated pleasure ground.

The gardens are arranged with a magnificence of design and correctness of taste, consonant in spirit to the palace which they are intended to adorn. No formality of lineal direction, nor labour of artificial ornament, injures the repose of the scene. All is nature, trained with tenderness and caution. "A thousand beauties, originating from design, appear fortuitous to the eye. Though traversing a garden where taste has exhausted its skill, we incessantly indulge the idea of being only contemplating the natural charms of the country, and tracing delights of rich variety and unlimited extent. The intersecting walks generally retire from the sight, but are never wanting for necessary communication:

munication: they conduct to the principal subordinate scenes, and occupy the happiest spaces."

At one point the eye is gratified by deep and cultivated seclusion; at another it is led over a boundless expanse of captivating landscape, revealed at the most felicitous juncture, and under the finest circumstances of contrast.

The artificial ornaments are few, and calculated to impart desirable relief and animation. Shortly after entering on a walk of pebbly gravel, which winds to the east among rising plantations, and beautiful stretches of tufted lawn, is seen a little structure, embellished with Corinthian capitals, called the *Temple of Health*. This votive building was erected in 1789. On a marble tablet is placed a loyal and elegant inscription, surmounted by a medallion of the king.

In a choice and rural division of the grounds, denominated the Sheep-Walk, is constructed a small thatched edifice, well suited to heighten the pastoral character of the scene, termed the *Shepherd's Cot*. Trunks of trees, fancifully arranged, compose this symbol of tranquillity, and varied foliage wraps it in romantic shade.

The more distant side of the gardens gains a powerful accession of beauty from the neighbourhood of the lake. The banks of this fine water, so rich in all that constitutes the picturesque, so variously wooded, and so fertile of fairy nooks, *now* present themselves as one lovely whole of scenery, *now* retire, in graceful though broken lines, and admit a share in the display to precincts of the distant park, rendered venerable by chivalric story.

The water is, in one part, conducted, amid groupes of acacia, cedar, and beech, to a finely mutilated descent, down which it pours its volume, and forms a pleasing cascade. At a short distance, in a pensive and recluse dell, is a capacious basin, ornamented with an estimable piece of sculpture, the last work of Bernini. It is "a copy from the magnificent fountain in the Piazza Navona, at Rome; and was a present from the Spanish ambassador

ambassador at the Papal court to the first Duke of Marlborough. On the four extremities of the rock which supports the obelisk, are four river gods, sculptured in white marble. These are intended to represent the *Danube*, the *Nile*, the *La Plata*, and the *Ganges*." Marble dolphins seem to sport on the water; and from a cavern appear to issue a lion and a seahorse, the attributes of Europe and Africa.

Two casts in bronze, L'Arrotino and the Roman Wrestlers, both by Benzi, are placed in different situations of the extensive gardens; and, on an elevation commanding exquisite prospects, is erected a temple to Diana. This is a chaste and handsome structure, designed by Sir William Chambers. In front are four Ionic columns; and on the pediment is a dedication "to the Ionian, rural, mountain-ranging Diana." Within are three medallions. That placed centrally represents, in bas-relief, Hippolitus offering to Diana a wreath of flowers. On the lateral medallions are verses from the Hippolitus of Euripides, which are thus translated:

> To thee, bright goddess, these fair flowers I bring,
> A chaplet woven from th' untainted mead,
> Thy cool sequester'd haunt, where never yet
> Shepherd approach'd; where the rude hind ne'er heav'd
> Th' unhallow'd axe: nor voice nor sound is heard,
> Save the low murmuring of the vernal bee.
> The day-spring from above the dew distils
> Genial and mild, from the pure stream exhal'd,
> On every fragrant herb, and favourite flower.

Within the pleasure grounds was, till recently, a flower-garden, after the plan of that of Madame Pompadour, formerly at Versailles. This is now destroyed, and an aviary, containing many rare and beautiful birds, is erected on the site. The gardens for the service of the table are extensive, and are furnished with excellent hot-houses, and a conservatory.

The *Park* contains a fine succession of adorned home-scenery,

and opens, at numberless points, to extensive and captivating displays. It is "chiefly shaded, towards the boundary, with a deep belt of various trees, evergreens, and deciduous shrubs, whose mingled foliage exhibits the different gradations of tints, from the most faint to the most obfuscated green; while plantations, of corresponding figure and growth, on the park side, sometimes range with the former, and sometimes, breaking into groupes, with large interstices between, relieve the tædium of continued uniformity."

Nor does the park depend for umbrage on the plantations of modern taste. It is well-wooded throughout, and in many places we meet with "time-honoured" oaks which may have afforded shade, in the vigour of their youth, to the Edwards and Henrys of distant story. A *ride*, or excellent road, including a circumference of more than three miles, describes a wide circle round the palace and gardens, and enables the examiner to form an accurate idea of the character of the more retired parts of the domain.

The early improvements in the grounds of Blenheim were effected under the direction of *Brown*, and he exerted his taste and skill to their extent. His conception, as to the most judicious mode of disposal, appears to have been accurate. His design was vast and grand; it was worthy of the magnificent pile which his work was to surround and adorn. Many improvements have since been introduced; these bestow the last touches of high finishing, and evince equal correctness of judgment and munificence of spirit. But ornament has not been the only object of late introductions: the *ferme ornée* claims its share, and adds the relief of simplicity to the charms of splendour. The portion of the park allotted to arable culture is in a retired situation, and could be well spared from so extensive a district of pasture. *

The WATER of Blenheim is one of the most felicitous of the features

* The park now supports about 1500 head of deer, and affords food to numerous flocks of sheep.

features which produce a whole of magnificence. The tranquil River Glyme originally wound through narrow banks, nearly in the direction of the present majestic river, or lake, for the water is truly said to partake of the nature of both. Brown perceived the propriety of expanding its limits, and he caused the banks to recede, still preserving the beautiful form which nature had bestowed, and which no art could equal. He was so well satisfied with his performance that he has been known to say, "The Thames would never forgive him for what he had done at Blenheim." But labours equally judicious with his own have since enlarged the boundaries; and the water now covers not less than two hundred and fifty acres. We are not aware that any part of the kingdom can boast of a spread of artificial water at once so august and lovely. Its meanders are sedate and pictorial; its broad bosom taintless and pellucid; and at no point of the prime precincts of the domain has its magnificence a visible termination.

The water of Blenheim is crossed by several stone bridges. That through which it enters the park possesses seven arches, which, if somewhat too numerous and minute in character, have been happily said "to give the idea of a supply equal to the magnitude of the lake." Quickly spreading to a great expanse, the favoured Glyme stretches towards *Queen Pool*, a retired neighbourhood of islets, so denominated from Philippa, the consort of Edward III. The examiner who is prone to nurse reflection, and who venerates the actors of a long-past day, will here, perhaps, place a local value on tradition, and will suppose that the excellent Philippa cherished a predilection for this spot, and often retired to its willowy recesses in the luxuriance of a summer month.

Before the river flows through another arch it washes a little tract called Queen *Elizabeth's Island*. This is, in fact, part of the ancient causeway leading to the manor-house, which stood about one hundred yards distant, towards the north.

The *Grand Bridge* has often been compared to the *Rialto* at Venice; but there is no similitude to warrant the allusion. This

is a fine structure, though by no means conspicuous for lightness. It should, however, be borne in recollection that the bridge forms the state-approach to Blenheim, and would want consonance of character if it were more airy. Like the building to which it leads, it is vast and august. An idea of its dimensions may be formed, when we observe that the diameter of the centre arch is one hundred and one feet.

On quitting the park, to which, aided by art, it proves so noble an ornament, the River Glyme passes under a low bridge, with numerous arches; and, falling down a steep cascade, mingles with the waters of the Evenlode.

The COLUMN, mentioned as one of the most stately ornaments of this domain, is placed on a considerable eminence, in the midst of a fine lawn. The height is one hundred and thirty feet. The summit of the pillar is crowned by a colossal statue of the Great Duke of Marlborough, in a Roman dress; at his feet are two eagles; in the left hand is the baton of command, and in the right is a figure of victory, elevated. On the side of the pedestal nearest to Blenheim is an inscription, which finely delineates the character of the duke, and relates, in compendious terms, the most striking of his exploits. This inscription is supposed to have proceeded from the pen of Lord Bolingbroke, and we present a copy as a necessary appendage, and a desirable ornament, to our notice of this splendid residence:

"The Castle of BLENHEIM was founded by Queen ANNE
In the fourth year of her Reign,
In the Year of the Christian Æra
One Thousand Seven Hundred and Five.
A monument design'd to perpetuate the Memory of the Signal Victory
Obtain'd over the *French* and *Bavarians*,
Near the Village of BLENHEIM,
On the Banks of the *Danube*,
By JOHN DUKE of MARLBOROUGH,
The Hero not only of his Nation, but of his Age:
Whose Glory was equal in the Council and in the Field;

Who, by Wisdom, Justice, Candour, and Address,
Reconcil'd various, and even opposite Interests;
Acquired an Influence
Which no Rank, no Authority can give,
Nor any Force, but that of superior Virtue;
Became the fixed important Centre,
Which united, in one common Cause,
The principal States of EUROPE;
Who, by military Knowledge, and irresistible Valour,
In a long Series of uninterrupted Triumphs,
Broke the Power of France,
When raised the highest, when exerted the most:
Rescued the Empire from Desolation;
Asserted and confirmed the Liberties of EUROPE.

"Philip, a grandson of the house of France, united to the interest, directed by the policy, supported by the arms of that crown, was placed on the throne of Spain. King William III. beheld this formidable union of two great, and once rival monarchies. At the end of a life spent in defending the liberties of Europe, he saw them in their greatest danger. He provided for their security in the most effectual manner. He took the Duke of Marlborough into his service.

"Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
"To the States General of the United Provinces,

"The duke contracted several alliances, before the death of King William. He confirmed and improved these, he contracted others, after the accession of Queen Anne: and re-united the Confederacy, which had been dissolved at the end of a former war, in a stricter and firmer league.

"Captain General and Commander-in-Chief
"Of the Forces of Great Britain,

"The duke led to the field the army of the allies. He took with surprising rapidity Venlo, Ruremonde, Stevenswaert, Liege. He

He extended and secured the frontiers of the Dutch. The enemies, whom he found insulting at the gates of Nimeghen, were driven to seek for shelter behind their lines. He forced Bonne, Huy, Limbourg, in another campaign. He opened the communication of the Rhine, as well as the Maes. He added all the country between these rivers to his former conquests.

"The arms of France, favoured by the defection of the Elector of Bavaria, had penetrated into the heart of the empire. This mighty body lay exposed to immediate ruin. In that memorable crisis, the Duke of Marlborough led his troops, with unexampled celerity, secrecy, order, from the Ocean to the Danube. He saw, he attacked, nor stopped, but to conquer the enemy. He forced the Bavarians, sustained by the French, in their strong entrenchments at Schellenberg. He passed the Danube. A second royal army, composed of the best troops of France, was sent to reinforce the first. That of the Confederates was divided. With one part of it the siege of Ingolstadt was carried on: with the other, the duke gave battle to the united strength of France and Bavaria. On the second day of August, one thousand seven hundred and four, he gained a more glorious victory than the histories of any age can boast. The heaps of slain were dreadful proofs of his valour: a marshal of France, whole legions of French, his prisoners, proclaimed his mercy. Bavaria was subdued, Ratisbon, Augsbourg, Ulm, Meminghen, all the usurpations of the enemy were restored. From the Danube the Duke turned his victorious arms towards the Rhine, and the Moselle, Landau, Treves, Traerbach were taken. In the course of one campaign the very nature of the war was changed. The invaders of other states were reduced to defend their own. The frontier of France was exposed in its weakest part to the efforts of the allies.

"That he might improve this advantage, that he might push the sum of things to a speedy decision, the Duke of Marlborough led his troops early in the following year once more to the Moselle. They whom he had saved a few months before, neglected to second him now. They who might have been his companions

in conquest, refused to join him. When he saw the generous designs he had formed frustrated by private interest, by pique, by jealousy, he returned with speed to the Maes. He returned; and fortune and victory returned with him. Liege was relieved: Huy retaken. The French, who had pressed the army of the States General with superior numbers, retired behind entrenchments which they deemed impregnable. The duke forced these entrenchments, with inconsiderable loss, on the seventh day of July, 1705. He defeated a great part of the army which defended them. The rest escaped by a precipitate retreat. If advantages proportionable to this success were not immediately obtained, let the failure be ascribed to that misfortune which attends most confederacies, a division of opinions where one alone should judge, a division of powers where one alone should command. The disappointment itself did honour to the Duke. It became the wonder of mankind, how he could do so much under those restraints which had hindered him from doing more.

"Powers more absolute were given him afterwards. The increase of his powers multiplied his victories. At the opening of the next campaign, when all his army was not yet assembled, when it was hardly known that he had taken the field, the noise of his triumphs was heard over Europe. On the twelfth day of May, one thousand seven hundred and six, he attacked the French at Ramillies. In the space of two hours their whole army was put to flight. The vigour and conduct with which he improved the success were equal to those with which he gained it. Louvain, Brussels, Malines, Liere, Ghent, Oudenarde, Antwerp, Damme, Bruges, Courtray, surrendered. Ostend, Menin, Dendermond, Aeth, were taken. Brabant and Flanders were recovered. Places which had resisted the greatest generals for months, for years; provinces disputed for ages were the conquests of a summer.

"Nor was the Duke content to triumph alone. Solicitous for the general interest, his care extended to the remotest scenes of the war, he chose to lessen his own army, that he might enable the

the leaders of other armies to conquer. To this must be ascribed, that Turin was relieved, the Duke of Savoy reinstated, the French driven with confusion out of Italy.

"These victories gave the confederates an opportunity of carrying the war on every side into the dominions of France. But she continued to enjoy a kind of peaceful neutrality in Germany. From Italy she was once alarmed, and had no more to fear. The entire reduction of this power, whose ambition had ceased, whose strength supported the war, seemed reserved to him alone, who had so triumphantly begun the glorious work.

"The barrier of France on the side of the Low Countries, had been forming for more than half a century. What art, power, expense could do, had been done, to render it impenetrable. Yet here she was most exposed: for here the Duke of Marlborough threatened to attack her.

"To cover what they had gained by surprise, or had been yielded to them by treachery, the French marched to the Banks of the Schelde. At their head were the Princes of the Blood, and their most fortunate general the Duke of Vendome. Thus commanded, thus posted, they hoped to check the victor in his course. Vain were their hopes. The Duke of Marlborough passed the river in their sight. He defeated their whole army. The approach of the night concealed, the proximity of Ghent favoured their flight. They neglected nothing to repair their loss, to defend their frontiers. New generals, new armies appeared in the Netherlands. All contributed to enhance the glory, none were able to retard the progress, of the Confederate Armies.

"Lisle, the bulwark of this barrier, was besieged. A numerous garrison, and a marshal of France defended the place. Prince Eugene of Savoy commanded, the Duke of Marlborough covered and sustained the siege. The rivers were seized, and the communication with Holland interrupted. The Duke opened new communications with great labour and greater art. Through countries over-run by the enemy, the necessary convoys arrived

in safety. One alone was attacked. The troops which attacked it were beat. The defence of Lisle was animated by assurances of relief. The French assembled all their force. They marched towards the town. The Duke of Marlborough offered them battle, without suspending the siege. They abandoned the enterprise. They came to save the town: they were spectators of its fall.

"From this conquest the Duke hastened to others.

"The posts taken by the enemy on the Schelde were surprised. That river was passed the second time, and, notwithstanding the great preparations made to prevent it, without opposition. Brussels, besieged by the Elector of Bavaria, was relieved. Ghent surrendered to the Duke in the middle of a winter remarkably severe. An army, little inferior to his own, marched out of the place.

"As soon as the season of the year permitted him to open another campaign, the Duke besieged and took Tournay. He invested Mons. Near this city, the French army, covered by thick woods, defended by treble entrenchments, waited to molest, nor presumed to offer battle. Even this was not attempted by them with impunity. On the last day of August, one thousand seven hundred and nine, the Duke attacked them in their camp. All was employed, nothing availed against the resolution of such a general, against the fury of such troops. The battle was bloody: the event decisive. The woods were pierced: the fortifications trampled down. The enemy fled. The town was taken.

"Doway, Bethune, Aire, St. Venant, Bouchain, underwent the same fate in two succeeding years. Their vigorous resistance could not save them. The army of France durst not attempt to relieve them. It seemed preserved to defend the capital of the monarchy.

"The prospect of this extreme distress was neither distant nor dubious. The French acknowledged their conqueror, and sued for peace.

"These

"These are the Actions of the DUKE of MARLBOROUGH,
Performed in the compass of a few Years,
Sufficient to adorn the Annals of Ages.
The Admiration of other Nations
Will be conveyed to latest Posterity,
In the Histories even of the Enemies of BRITAIN.
The Sense which the BRITISH Nation had
Of his transcendant Merit,
was expressed
In the most solemn, most effectual, most durable manner.
The Acts of PARLIAMENT inscribed on this Pillar
Shall stand as long as the BRITISH Name and Language
last,
Illustrious monuments
Of MARLBOROUGH's Glory,
and
Of BRITAIN's Gratitude."

These acts are inscribed on the three remaining faces of the pedestal, together with an abstract of the entail of the Duke's honours and estates on the descendants of his daughters. The Spencer family, in whom the honours now centre, inherit from the Countess of Sunderland, the second daughter. It may be here observed, that the whole of the sum voted by Parliament, was expended on the palace. This costly pillar, and the grand bridge, were erected at the sole expense of the family.

We have before remarked, that the *Akeman Street* crosses the Park. Its progress is from east to west, and it may be distinctly traced near the North Lodge. In many places this ancient street has been broken up, and "its materials appear to have been an immense congestion of rubble and stones, such as the vicinity supplied."

Some few particulars connected with the park* yet remain to be noticed.

* The following meteorological phenomenon respecting this district is recorded by Dr. Mavor:—"On the evening of the 29th of November, 1797, a freezing

Near the Home Lodge is a handsome stone building, separate from the park by iron palisadoes, termed the *China Gallery* This building is divided into five compartments, and was con structed for the reception of a superb assortment of porcelain collected by a Mr. Spalding, and presented by him, "on certai conditions, as an appendant to Blenheim." The gallery is we contrived for its purpose; the light is chiefly obtained from th top; and the whole of the valuable collection is arranged wit much taste. We freely admit, that we want judgment to pa ticularize, with due discrimination, the articles most estimab on account of rareness; but Dr. Mavor, whose intelligence a pears universal, enables us to make the following observations "Some specimens of this elegant manufacture exhibit its infa state, which, according to the Abbé Raynal, may be reasonabl supposed to be three thousand years ago. The remote antiquit of these may be inferred from the rudeness of the designs, a the imperfect crackled appearance of the baking. Among oth varieties are many of the choicest pieces of the old blue, a white, and pale japan brown edge, so much esteemed by the c rious. Likewise a numerous assortment of those very scar and valuable sorts, the antique *bleu celeste*, and deep purp Many of the specimens here preserved are unique in their kind Several also gain a collateral interest from having belong to personages, familiar by repute to the student of history. room adjoining the entrance is filled with specimens of Rom and old earthen ware.

T

a freezing rain began to fall, and in the course of the night, incrusted ev tree, shrub, and blade of grass, to a thickness almost incredible. In con quence of this, many trees and an immense number of branches were brou to the ground. In Blenheim Park, to which, and a small surrounding spa this phenomenon was confined, nearly one thousand loads of wood were stroyed. The very rooks had their wings frozen, and fell from their perch Nothing could be more beautiful than the trees in their brilliant coats of m By candle light, every leaf of evergreens seemed to have a diamond pe ant at its extremity."

The *High Lodge* is a venerable building, embattled in character, and occupying a beautiful situation. This structure was once the residence of the witty Earl of Rochester; and here he died, at the age of thirty-four, a penitent victim to the evil examples of King Charles and his court.

Dr. Plot mentions, a remarkable polysyllabical articulate echo, which "in the day time, little wind being stirring, returns very distinctly seventeen syllables; and in the night twenty." The *Centrum Phonicum*, or Speaker's place, is at a short distance from the portal, by which the park is usually entered. But, owing to the demolition of the Manor house, which stood on the brow of the opposite hill, and the extension of the river, the powers of this echo are much diminished. A very superior echo may still be elicited by a person who places himself near an ancient cedar tree, in the vicinity of Rosamond's Well. Much depends on the stillness of the day. A monosyllable is usually returned twice or thrice, with great distinctness; but, when we visited the spot, complex sounds appeared fatiguing to the nymph, and her responses were confused and inarticulate.

The village of STONESFIELD, is distant somewhat less than two miles from the western boundary of Blenheim park. At a small remove from the park, and a little to the right of the Akeman Street, was discovered in this parish, a tesselated pavement, in the year 1711. The dimensions were 35 feet by 20. In a circle, placed centrally in one of the compartments, was the figure of Apollo or Bacchus, holding a Thyrsus in the left, and elevating a flaggon in the right hand, and bestriding a tiger or dragon. The other compartment was square, and enclosed an ornamented circle of wreath-work. The pavement was not more than two feet beneath the surface, and was covered with burned wood and corn. The greater portion of it was suffered to be destroyed by the country people, but some fragments are yet preserved; and Hearne caused a drawing and engraving to be made before the compartments were disarranged.

At the time of discovery this was thought to be nothing more

than the flooring of a Roman General's tent; but, in the ye 1779, the areas of several other large apartments, with cario tessellations and borders, were found near the same spot. A joining were a hypocaust of brick, and a bath, six feet four inche by five feet four, and three feet deep, with leaden pipes in t sides, which, according to Gough, were eighteen inches thic and covered with plaster, painted red. We observe with regr that these curious remains were also removed and demolished Correct drawings of the whole, by Lewington of Woodstock, a in the possession of the Antiquary Society; and an engravi has been made of the two largest apartments, by Fowler.

YARNTON is a village situated four miles from Woodstock, the south-east. The manor of Yarnton (*Hardintone* in Doom day, and often termed *Erdington* in old writings) was, for mar years, in the possession of Eynsham abbey. In an arrangeme which took place between the monastery of Stow, and the abb of Eynsham, Remigius, Bishop of Lincoln, "desired that might have the loan of the manor of Erdington, that, as oft as he had occasion, he might dwell therein." On the death that bishop, Henry II. seized on his property, and gave t manor to Bernard de Sancto Walenco," in contempt of many monstrances proffered by the abbot of Eynsham. The manor w afterwards possessed by Edmund Earl of Cornwall, who present it to Rewley Abbey, as a part of the foundation. Shortly af the Dissolution it was procured by the family of Spencer, a remained with them till the early part of the 18th century. 1695, Sir Robert Dashwood, of Kirtlington, purchased the R version, of the heirs of Sir Thomas Spencer, after the death La

* "On the inclosure of the parish of Stonesfield, in 1801," says Dr. M vor, "by a *tasteless* allotment of property, the site of these venerable rem of the Romans has been divided among three different proprietors, so t not a vestige of them will soon be left. While the field was enclosing, writer of this saw a very beautiful border of one of the tesselated areas covered. It lay only about six inches from the surface, and must have b grazed by the plough every year that the spot was in cultivation."

Lady Spencer, for the sum of 31,000l.; and, about the year 1711, he came into possession.

This branch of the honourable family of Spencer descended from the common ancestor, Robert, one of the barons of William the first, and were closely allied to the Spencers, Earls of Sunderland. They constructed a mansion house, near the church of Yarnton, in which they long resided in a style of hospitality rather exceeding the usual bounty, even of those hospitable ages. Their local liberality was unbounded; as a proof of which it may be observed, that the tower at the west end of the church, was erected at their entire expense, in 1612.

In a chapel on the south side of the chancel, built by Sir Thomas Spencer, Bart. is an alabaster monument, with the effigies of a man armed, and lying on his back, with his helmet and crest under his head, and gauntlets at his feet. On his left side is the proportion of his lady, in the same posture. The inscription informs us, that the monument is for Sir William Spencer, of Althorp, in Northamptonshire, Knight, who died in 1609, and Margaret his wife, who died in 1608. The building, likewise, contains many other monuments of the same family.

Sir Thomas Spencer left ten pounds a year to be appropriated in the following manner: three pounds *per annum* to the vicar of Yarnton, on condition that he shall every year, on the birthday of Sir Thomas, and on the recurrence of the day on which his wife died, read the morning service, as directed in the Liturgy, in his chapel. The remainder to be distributed among the poor of the parish.

Wolvercote is a village of some extent, built partly on the level at the edge of Port Meadow, in the vicinity of Oxford, and partly on the side of the gentle ascent that leads to the Woodstock road. In the latter division stands the church, a neat Gothic building, with a low embattled tower at the west. It was in a wood near Wolvercote that Memphric, the supposed founder of the city of Oxford, was destroyed by wolves, while hunting, according to the fabulous legends of early writers.

Proceeding

Proceeding to the banks of the river Isis, we find, at the distance of two miles from Oxford, the remains of GODSTOW NUNNERY. These ruins partake little of grandeur. Their interest arises from the impressive mellowness bestowed by extreme age, and the tender associated recollections which crowd on the spectator's mind, and people the dreary spot with the romantic actors in the pageant of a remote day. The walks taken through these now rude and contemned recesses by Rosamond, while youthful, docile, and unpolluted; the splendid and gallant approaches of the enamoured Henry;—visionary images like these glitter in the eye and captivate the fancy. We then remember the pale and care-worn corpse which was placed within the walls as all that remained of deluded beauty; we recollect that even the quiet of the grave was denied to that miserable wreck of loveliness; and we learn that "sermons may indeed be found in stones," and a pointed moral be drawn from the mouldering relic which possesses little force of pictorial attraction.

Godstow Nunnery was erected on ground given by John de St. John, towards the end of the reign of Henry I. by Editha or Ida, a lady of Winchester, who was the widow of "a knyht Syr Willm Launcelne."* Dame Editha became the first abbess of the foundation; and by her was built the church, a structure dedicated to the Virgin Mary and St. John the Baptist in 1138 by Alexander, Bishop of Lincoln, "in the presence," says Dugdale, "of King Stephen, and Maud, the Queen, with abundance of nobility." This pile appears to have been an object of some esteem and consequence, for we find that "a remission of forty days was granted to all those who visited the church in devotion

* Vide a transcript from the Chartulary, or Ledger-Book of this house in the Gentleman's Magazine for August, 1787. The Chartulary was abstracted into English by "a poor broder, and welwysher to the good Abbes of Godstowe, Dame Alice Henley, and to all hyr covent." Alice Henley, or Alice of Henley, was abbess about 1464. The Chartulary contains a narrative of many visionary circumstances reported to be connected with the foundation.

on the days of the Virgin, or St. John the Baptist." At the Dissolution the nunnery was valued at 274l. *per annum*. A considerable portion of the habitable buildings remained till the civil war in the reign of Charles, when it was for a time occupied by the Royalists, and was afterwards destroyed by fire.

In this nunnery was placed, as a boarder, for the purpose of receiving education, Rosamond, the daughter of Walter Lord Clifford. The females resident in this religious house, according to Stowe, were allowed considerable licence. They were even permitted to spend one day in the year at Godstow Fair; but it must be remembered that fairs, or wakes, were then united with pious ceremonials. Godstow, in itself, was fertile in means of innocent relaxation. There were numerous embowered recesses and inviting walks. To prevent the possibility of these becoming tedious through repetition, the fair devotees were allowed to visit several neighbouring places. One of their favourite spots was *Medley*, a spacious building between Godstow and Oxford. This was a choice secluded mansion, on the border of the river; and we are told that "much mirth passed" during their visits. Medley was not a religious house, but it possessed an oratory, or chapel;* and the nuns, it is said, "had their private devotions in

* Medley, before the Norman Conquest, belonged to the burgesses of Oxford, but was, at a subsequent period, bestowed by them on Osney Abbey. "The Canons of Osney built there," says Peshal, who derives his intelligence from Wood, "a very fair house, with a little oratory or chapel, and made it serve as a retiring place up the water for the abbot." This building continued devoted to the pleasure of the abbot till the Dissolution. Medley was uniformly considered a desirable spot for relaxation. *Withers*, in one of his amatory poems, thus alludes to the charms of the neighbourhood:

"In summer time to Medley
My Love and I would go,
The Boatmen there stood ready
My Love and I to rowe.
For Cream there would we call," &c.

There is now a solitary building on the spot, which was lately a house of public entertainment, but has been recently converted into a farm-dwelling.

in some rooms set apart for them, if accident caused them to st
longer than ordinary." *Binsey* was likewise often favoured wi
their visits. Perhaps early historians have rather enlarged
the circumstances of indulgence granted to these nuns; but
know that the devotees at St. Frideswide were accustomed
retire to romantic spots on the margin of the river, for meditati
or amusement.

It is supposed that Henry first saw Rosamond in 1149.
this time she was not more than fifteen years of age; and t
prince was very young. If our account of the *Discipline* of t
Nunnery bear any resemblance to correctness, opportunities
overture were abundant. It is probable that Henry softened t
fall of his victim by promises of honourable retribution: but t
love-promises of a prince depend for performance on politic
expediency. The repudiated Queen of France, Eleanor of Gu
enne, held the support of a sceptre in her hand; and the pr
tensions of ensnared beauty, and subdued innocence, weighe
trivially on the opposite side.

As the circumstances attending Henry's connexion with R
samond were either treated with indifference, or were studious
thrown into shade by the writers of that era, an impenetrabl
cloud of doubt involves the whole affair; but it seems probabl
that Rosamond retired from the society of her royal seducer soo
after he brought his queen to England. There are reasons fo
supposing that she returned to the nunnery in which her hap
piest days had passed, and lived there, in penitence and seclusion
for several years. The story of her being poisoned by Queen
Eleanor is of modern fabrication. Every writer near her ow
time describes her as dying a natural death. It appears tha
Henry shewed an undeviating predilection for the nunnery which
had afforded him early and unhallowed joy. Bernard de St
Walery possessed the site and advowson of Godstow, and the
adjacent manor of Wolvercote. When he had offended the king,
he presented these as a peace-offering; and Henry immediately
gave them to the prioress and nuns.

The

The body of Rosamond was interred by her parents before the high-altar at Godstow, and a costly monument was erected, round which lights were directed to be kept continually burning. On the monument is said to have been placed the following quaint epitaph;

> Hic jacet in Tumba rosa Mundi, non rosa Munda,
> Non Redolet, sed olet, quæ redolere solet.

"Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln," says Stowe, "came, A. D. 1191, to the Abbey of the Nunnes, and when he had entered the Church to pray, he saw a tombe in the Middle of the Quire, covered with a Pall of Silke, and set about with Lights of Waxe. And demanding whose Tombe it was, he was answered that it was the Tombe of Rosamond, sometime Lemman to Henry II. who, for the love of her, had done much good to that Church." "Then," quoth the Bishop, "take out of this Place the Harlot, and bury her without the Church."

This severe command is said, by all who have mentioned the circumstance, to have arisen from a zeal of piety; for Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln, was esteemed a paragon of holiness. But it is generally more judicious to search for a motive in policy, rather than in piety, when we regard the actions of churchmen at so distant a period. Geoffrey, Archbishop of York, the second son of Rosamond by Henry, was a patriot of the most amiable description; and he was, at this time, particularly obnoxious to Longchamp, Bishop of Ely, who was chief *guardian* of the realm in the absence of Richard I. but who was intent on becoming a tyrant rather than a protector. Bishop Hugh appears to have been anxious to ingratiate himself with the ruling power, by thus bestowing unmeasured obloquy on the remains of the patriot's mother.

When the mouldering body of Rosamond, who might be thought to have paid a last earthly atonement for pollution, was removed by order of this politic bishop, it was placed, according

to Higden, in the Nuns' Chapter-House,* a building believe still to be remaining, and which will briefly claim our notic But persecution had not yet done with the sod that supporte her head. At the Reformation her bones were taken up, an her tomb was destroyed. Mr. Allen, of Gloucester-Hall, de scribes this tomb as "having on it *interchangeable weaving* drawn out and decked with roses, red and green, and the pictur of the cup out of which she drank the poison given her by th queen, carved in the stone." But Gough, in a Letter publishe by him in the Gentleman's Magazine,† says, "I confess mysel strongly inclined to believe this was intended for a *cross-fleuri* such as was frequent on the coffin-lids of ecclesiastics; and th cup for a chalice, as often found thereon." Leland mention "Rosamunde's Tumbe, at Godstowe Nunnery, taken up alate," as a stone, with this inscription, *Tumba Rosamundæ;* and says that "Her Bones were closid in Lead, and within that the Bones were closed in Letter (Leather:) when it was opened a swete smell came out of it."

Rosamond had two sons by King Henry—Richard Longespee, or Longsword, (so called from the sword he usually wore,) and Geoffery Plantagenet, who was elected Bishop of Lincoln, but was never consecrated, and was afterwards appointed Archbishop of York.

Both were treated with much consideration by their royal father. Richard, the eldest, was married to Ela, daughter and heir of the Earl of Salisbury.

"The Gods," we are told "of our pleasant vices make instruments to plague us."—If the assertion of the poet be correct, and

* Hoveden, a writer of considerable pretensions to credit, merely says, that when the body was removed it was buried "*extra ecclesiam cum ceteris.*"

† This Letter contains many curious particulars, and is accompanied by a plate, from an engraving in the possession of the Keeper of the Bodleian Library. The time at which the original engraving was made is not known, but it was evidently previous to the civil wars of the seventeenth century. Vide Gent. Mag. Vol. XLI. p. 985.

and heaven indeed visits the transgressions of man in sublunary vengeance, the gratification of ambition, in his nuptials with Eleanor of Guienne, was the "pleasant vice" of Henry; for seldom has the patience of a father been tried by so ungracious a brood as that which sprang from the repudiated princess for whom Rosamond was abandoned.—The unnatural wars waged against the king by his legitimate sons are well known.—Amid these dreary scenes he was solaced by the filial attachment and unshaken honour of the child on whose birth he had cast so cruel a stigma. The Archbishop of York, Henry's second son by Rosamond, fought for him in the field with bravery and skill, and was ever at hand to administer the comfort of reverent friendship to his distressed hours. This son staid by him to the last; and when the aged king sank to death, quite heart-broken by the vindictive ingratitude of his other children, the bishop attended his corpse to the nunnery of Fontevrault, and watched near it while it lay in state.

The remains of Godstow-Nunnery chiefly consist of ranges of wall on the north, south, and east sides of an extensive area; and a small building at one angle. Near the western extremity of the high north wall are fragments of two buttresses; and here, according to the engraving before-mentioned, was formerly a massy tower, beyond which protruded a range of embattled wall, communicating with the principal entrance. Over this entrance, in a lateral direction, was a lofty round tower. The chief domestic buildings, according to the same engraving, occupied the western division of the area, and had a range of cloisters constructed beneath. Beyond these were the kitchen and outhouses, on a spot now used as garden-ground by the occupier of a neighbouring small house of entertainment, and partly fenced towards the north by the original wall. The church was on the north side. A part of the church tower was standing till within these two years, a venerable and interesting relic! It was taken down by order of the Earl of Abingdon, in whom is vested the property of these curious memorials of distant times; and his

lordship used the materials in aid of a new church, which he built in the neighbouring parish of Witham.

The small building which abuts on the east, and ranges al the southern side, was probably the "Chapter-house" of Nuns. The walls are entire. The roof is of wood; and som the rafter-work is yet in fair preservation. The chapel several windows, and that at the east contained three lig but all are stopped up. There is no pavement; and the earth the footing is as rough and billowy as can be readily imagi Various fragments of hay and straw are scattered about; for structure, at different times, has been used as a cow-house, a stable for horses.

It is in this building that the remains of Rosamond are beli to have been placed, when a sordid want of feeling caused t to be removed from the choir of the church. On the north of the chancel, over the spot *supposed* to have been form occupied by her tomb, is painted a copy of the epitaph, *jacet in Tumbra Rosa*, &c. with some English lines, in b letter, (now half obliterated,) ridiculously pretending to copy of an inscription on her monument.

In regard to this spot we are enabled to mention a cir stance, which may gratify curiosity, if it do not possess interest. Anthony Wood, in a memorandum preserved a his papers in the Ashmolean Museum, appears to doubt wh this building, the presumed chapter-house of the nuns, had ever been used as a place of burial. A gentleman of Church, Oxford, attended by some friends, resolved, months back, to ascertain the fact, and we are favoured wi result of his investigation. He removed the earth from th posed site of Rosamond's tomb; and, at the depth of abou feet, he came to a female skeleton, without any indication o or rank, or even the remains of a coffin. A little eastward w of a second skeleton. Thus is the doubt raised by Anthony satisfactorily removed. But it seems obvious either that the of Rosamond, when enclosed "in lead and leather," were

encased, above ground, in the frame-work of an altar-tomb; or (which, perhaps, is most probable,) that the precise spot of her second sepulture has been improperly described by tradition. There is not the slightest reason for supposing that the skeletons found were those of any other than ordinary nuns.

The building was divided by a wooden screen, of which only some small indications now remain. The whole of the fabric appears to have been of rude workmanship. Hearne mentions an "old stone, lying in the chancel, which is said to have been the altar-piece;" but this has long since been removed. Grose was shewn, in the chapel, "a large stone coffin, pretended to be that from which Rosamond's bones were taken; it seemed to be contrived for two bodies, having been divided in the middle by a ridge of stone, running from head to foot."* This is now gone and forgotten.

About twenty years back a cut was made for the purpose of accelerating the navigation of the Isis. This cut probably interfered with the site of the old church. Many stone coffins were turned up; one of which is in the possession of Mr. Alderman Fletcher, of Oxford. It appears that Walter, Lord Clifford, and his wife, Margaret, were both buried at Godstow.

On a bridge, in the vicinity of the nunnery, probably that over the Isis, we are told by Leland there was a cross erected, with this inscription:

> Qui meat huc, oret, signumque salutis adoret,
> Utque sibi detur veniam, Rosamunda, precetur.

It is observed by Gough, "that, if we read *tibi* for *sibi*, this is a prayer for Rosamond's soul; much more probably than that she was to be applied to as a saint, for then we should read *Rosamundam*." It is likely that the cross was raised by Rosamond's parents, promptly after her funeral; and it is natural to suppose that the piety of the age would induce them to wish for the

* An engraving, from a drawing by Grose, of this very curious instance of a double coffin, is inserted in the Gent. Mag. for November, 1791.

the prayers of all travellers, in favour of a remission of th daughter's transgressions.

BINSEY is a very small village, at a short distance from O ford, on the damp level of the Port Meadow. Here, we are to that saintly virgin, Frideswide, constructed a church, w "watlyn and rough-hewn timber, to the honour of St. Marga about the year 730. Frideswide, taking great delight in the litary shades and privacy of this neighbourhood, which was t environed with woods, not only built the church, but also veral other edifices adjoining, purposely that she, and her ters, the nuns who lived with her in Oxford, might retire times of distraction in the city. Binsey continued a cell, place of retirement for the nuns, in succeeding ages, and hith to, also, were sent their more stubborn sort, to be punished crimes committed against the prior or his brethren, which commonly either by inflicting on them confinement in a d room, or by withdrawing from them their usual repast, or like." *

The present church is an ancient brick building, without sp or tower, and stands considerably remote from the village.

At the west end was the noted well of St. Margaret, to wh in conjunction with the various reliques in the church, or cha crowds of votaries came, in long and weary pilgrimage. Sev priests dwelt here, under the appointment of the prior of Frideswide's, to confess and absolve the devotees; and it is that *Seckworth*, on the opposite side of the river, (of wh place few traces now remain,) contained twenty-four inns for reception of these pious travellers. Over the well was a vering of stone; and, on the front, "the picture of St. deswide, pulled down," says Wood, "by Alderman Sayre, of ford, in 1639."

The village of Ensham is distant from Oxford five miles the north-west. Few villages in the county are adorned by s plea

* Peshall, apud Wood.

pleasing circumstances of situation. The contiguous scenery is rural, attractive, and, at several points, extremely picturesque. The approach from Oxford is over two stone bridges, the first of which is a handsome structure, built by the Earl of Abingdon, across the Isis. The village is, in itself, extensive and cheerful. The church is a handsome Gothic edifice; and, between that building and a well-endowed school-house is a cross, with a taper shaft of conspicuous beauty.

Eynsham was a place of considerable consequence in the very early periods of our national history. From Camden, who faithfully copies the Saxon chronicle, we find that Cuthwulfe, the Saxon, was the first who rested the place from the Britons, after that important battle which decided the fate of Mercia. It formed a royal vill, and gained an accession of importance from an abbey, founded by Ethelmar, Earl of Cornwall, in the reign of King Ethelred. That king confirmed the foundation in the year 1005, "and signed," says Camden, "in the words of the original, the privilege of liberty with the sign of the Holy Cross." King Ethelred continued to bestow much favour on the place; and here, in the year 1009, he held a general council, at which time were established many decrees, of consequence to the government, both in church and state.

Shortly subsequent to the Conquest, Remigius, Bishop of Lincoln, wished to append the foundation at Eynsham to the monastery of Stow, near Lincoln; but the reverse ultimately took place, and the monastery of Stow, which was founded and endowed by Godiva, wife of Leofrick, Earl of Chester, was annexed to Eynsham abbey, as a cell.

This acquirement, however, produced an augmentation of influence, rather than of revenue; and, in 1109, the building had fallen into great decay. It was repaired by Henry I. who, at the same time, renewed the confirmation of its endowment and liberties. These acts of royal favour appear to have engendered an emulative spirit of liberality, and the donation in this and several succeeding reigns were numerous and munificent.

Among the benefactors were Reginald de St. Walery, wh
"for the health of the souls of King Henry II. and Eleanor h
wife, as also for the good estate of himself and Bernard, h
son," gave the churches of Tetbury and Legis; and Maud, t
empress, who granted to the monks the church of Combe, to whi
John de St. John, of Stanton, was witness, who also gave t
church of Stanton. *

There is a catalogue extant of the Abbots, twenty-eight in nu
ber. Miles Salley †, the twenty-sixth abbot, being Bishop
Llandaff, held the abbey *in commendam*. Anthony Kitchen w
the last abbot; who, with his prior, sub-prior, and thirteen mon
subscribed to the king's supremacy, and surrendered the abb
in 1539, upon the promise of an allowance of 135l. 6s. 8d. p
ann. He was soon afterwards promoted to the Bishopric
Llandaff.

At the Dissolution the value was returned at 441l. 12s. 2
ob. 9. per ann. Subsequent to this period the abbey site becam
the property of the Earls of Derby. After passing through
younger branch of that family, it came to a nephew, Sir Edwa
Stanley, K. B. one of whose coheirs was Venetia, the wife
Sir Kenelm Digby, concerning whose beauty and accomplishmen
so much has been heard. The only remains of the building are tw
windows, now used as doorways; one of which is in the vicara
garden, and is adorned with a coat of arms, and marked with th
date 1300.

Among the privileges granted to the monks of Eynsham w
a market, allowed by King Stephen to be held in the villag
"

* Among the minor contributions were certain quantities of corn, to be pa
yearly. The prices of those rendered by the manor of Stokes, in this count
anno 1256, are as follows:—

8 Quarters of wheat, at 4s. per quarter.
11 Quarters of miscellane, at 18d per quarter.
8 Quarters of oats, at 12d. per quarter.

† In 1501, the prince of Wales, afterwards Henry VIII. visited this abbo
at Eynsham.

"on every Lord's day." The Bishop of Lincoln, in 1230, permitted the "observance of processions, and other solemnities at Ensham church, in obedience to the mother church at Lincoln, in Whitsun week; and many of the Oxford scholars, repairing thither to see jovial doings, were assaulted by the country people, who killed some, and wounded others." The bishop, in consequence of this affray, "excommunicated the authors and abetters of the sedition, in all the churches of Oxfordshire; excluding them the society of all Christians, and depriving them of the benefit of confession, till the feast of St. Bartholomew."

Dr. Plot mentions a curious "ancient custom of the royalty of Ensham, where it was formerly allowed to the towns people, on Whit-Monday, to cut down, and bring away, where-ever the churchwardens pleased to mark it out by giving the first chop, as much timber as could be drawn by men's hands into the abbey yard; whence if they could draw it out again, notwithstanding all the impediments which could be given the cart by the servants of the abbey, (and, since that, by the family of the lord,) it was then their own, and went, in part at least, to the reparation of their church." This custom remained in force till the latter part of the 17th century.

The school in this village was founded by John Bartholomew, and is endowed for the instruction of twelve poor boys, one of whom is annually apprenticed.

John Rogers, D. D. was born, in the year 1670, at Eynsham, of which parish his father was vicar. He received the early part of education at New College School, Oxford; and was afterwards scholar and fellow of Corpus Christi College. His first church preferment was the vicarage of Buckland, in Berkshire. In 1712 he was chosen lecturer of St. Clement's Danes, London; and, soon after, of the united parishes of Christ Church, and St. Leonard's, Foster Lane. In 1716 he resigned his fellowship, and married the Honourable Lydia Hare, sister to Lord Coleraine, who had been his pupil in the University. His subsequent performents in the church were various, and he was

shortly appointed chaplain to the prince of Wales. He resi chiefly at Wrington, in Somersetshire, the rectory house of wh parish he rebuilt. His last preferment was to the valua living of St. Giles, Cripplegate, to which he was presented the dean and chapter of St. Paul's. He died, in his fifti year, in London, May 1, 1720, having preached at court, king's chaplain, only a few days before. A handsome mar monument was erected to his memory, in Eynsham church, by widow.

His chief work is "A Discourse concerning the visible and visible Church." For this performance the University of Oxf conferred on him the degree of D. D. by diploma.

He also published a series of sermons on the necessity of a I vine revelation; and "reasons against conversion to the chur of Rome, in a letter to his guardian, a late convert to that churc by a student in the temple."

Stanton Harcourt is three miles from Eynsham, on t south-west. We are indebted for many particulars concerni this place to an account written by the late Earl Harcourt, a printed for private accommodation, though never regularly pu lished. The manor has been in the possession of the Harco family for upwards of six centuries. It was granted by Adeli the second Queen of Henry I. to her kinswoman, Milicent, wife Richard de Camvil, whose daughter Isabel married Robert Harcourt.

The estate was held of the Crown by the following servic "The Lord of Stanton Harcourt must find four browsers Woodstock park, in Winter time, when the snow shall happen fall, and tarrye for the space of two days; and so to find said browsers, there browsing, so long as the snow doth ly every browser to have to his lodging every night, one bi of wood, the length of his axe helve, and that to carry to lodging upon the edge of his axe. And the king's bailiff of demesnes, or the hundred of Wootton, coming to give warn for the said browsers, shall blow his horn at the gate of the m

nor of Stanton Harcourt, and then the said bailiff to have a caste of bread, a gallon of ale, and a piece of beef, of the said lord; and the said lord, or other for the time being, to have of custom yearly out of the said parke, one buck in summer, and one doe in winter." The lord of Stanton Harcourt was, likewise, to make, rear, and carry the grass growing in a certain meadow within the park of Woodstock.

The ancient family of Harcourt chiefly resided on this manor till the latter part of the seventeenth century, and some curious fragments of a mansion constructed by them at a very early period are still in existence. These consist of the porter's lodge, the kitchen, with some few adjoining rooms; and the domestic chapel.

The porter's lodge is the most modern part. On either side of the gate are the arms of Harcourt, impaling Darrell: a proof that the gate was erected by Sir Simon Harcourt, who died in 1547.

The kitchen is on a construction of which we have only one more example remaining in England; the kitchen formerly appertaining to the abbey of Glastonbury. The walls are three feet thick. "Below, the room is nothing but a large square, and octangular above, ascending like a tower; the fires being made against the walls, and the smoke climbing up them, without any tunnels, or disturbance to the cooks; which, being stopped by a large conical roof at the top, goes out at loop-holes, on every side, according as the wind sits; the loop-holes at the side next the wind being shut with falling doors, and the adverse side opened. Thus," says Plot, "one may truly call it either a kitchen within a chimney, or a kitchen without one." The date at which this building was first erected is not known, but it is supposed to have been repaired about the reign of Henry IV. at which time the present windows were probably inserted. The height of the walls to the bottom of the roof is 39 feet. The roof rises 25 feet in the centre.

The

The few adjoining rooms possess no circumstance of interest, and are at present inhabited by the family of a farmer.

The principal apartments * stood between the kitchen and the domestic chapel. One of these was called the *Queen's Chamber*, from Elizabeth, Queen of Bohemia, who was entertained with much splendour in this mansion. Sir Philip Harcourt was the last of the family who resided at Stanton Harcourt. The estate was settled in jointure on his widow. This lady disposed of the furniture, by sale, in 1688, and suffered the buildings to decay through neglect. Many of the principal rooms, however were not taken down till about half a century back.

The domestic chapel, with a chamber over part of it, and a tower, containing three apartments one above the other, each thirteen feet square, is likely to endure for many years. The lower part has a flat wooden ceiling, composed of squares, with red and yellow mouldings. The painted ground is blue with gilded stars in the middle of each compartment. The windows were formerly filled with stained glass, containing armorial bearings.

The tower is thought to have been erected in the reign of Edward IV. though the arch of the largest window rather resembles the style which prevailed in the time of Henry VII. The upper room in this tower yet retains the name of *Pope's Study*. That poet passed a part of two summers in the deserted mansion of Stanton Harcourt, while engaged in translating Homer. His noble friends, the proprietors of the domain, resided, meantime at the more cheerful neighbouring seat, termed Cockthorp. There *Gay* was their inmate; and he was nearly the only person who presumed to break occasionally on the great translator's retirement. On a pane of red stained glass, in one of the casement

* The description given of this ancient manor house by Pope, in a letter written from Stanton to the Duke of Buckingham, is, says Lord Harcourt, "incorrect in nearly every particular, as may be seen by an existing plan."

easements of his romantic retreat, Pope placed the following inscription:—

In the year 1718,
Alexander Pope
Finished here
The fifth volume of Homer.

This pane of glass is now preserved at Nuneham Courtenay, as an interesting relique.

The *Church* is a spacious and handsome building, of the cruciform character. The windows in the lower part of the tower are of Saxon architecture; those in the upper division are of a much more recent date. The principal entrance is by a round-headed arch; on one side of which is a small stone receptacle for Holy Water. At a small distance is another door, used by the women only; as, from a custom of immemorial standing, they never pass through the same entrance with the men.* The nave is evidently, from the occurrence of round-headed windows, a part of the original structure; the other divisions of the building are chiefly of a later date. The windows in the chancel are all of a slender lancet shape.

The church contains several ancient brasses. Under an arch, in the south wall of the chancel, is the tomb of Maud, daughter of John Lord Grey of Rotherfield, wife of Sir Thomas de Harcourt, who died in the 17th of Richard II. On the tomb is her effigies, in the costume of that age. Among several memorials, unconnected with the Harcourts, is the mural monument of Robert Huntingdon, and his son, Esquires, with a poetical epitaph by Congreve, by no means remarkable for felicity of thought or elegance of expression.

Annexed to the south wall of the chancel is the burial-chapel of

* I am not aware that a custom like this is retained among persons of the established church in any other parish. It will be recollected that, by one of the canons of the Popish church, females were excluded the chapel.

of the Harcourt family, an ornamented Gothic building, probably of the time of Edward IV. Under the east window, where the altar formerly stood, is a large monument of marble and alabaster, with gilding, to the memory of Sir Philip Harcourt, and his first wife, Anne, daughter of Sir William Waller, the Parliamentarian general.

On the south side is the monument of Sir Robert Harcourt and his wife Margaret. This Sir Robert was slain by the Staffords of the Lancastrian party, in 1471. He is represented "in his hair; a gorget of mail, and plated armour, strapped at the elbows and wrists; a large hilted sword on the left, and a dagger on the right, the belt charged with oak leaves. Shoes of scaled armour; the order of the garter on the left leg; and, over all, the mantle of the order, with a rich cape and cordon.

"His lady is in the veiled head-dress, falling back; has a mantle, a surcoat, and a cordon; long sleeves, fastened in a singular manner at the wrists; and the garter, with the motto in embossed letters, above the elbow of the left arm *; her feet are partly wrapped up in her mantle."

Facing this monument is that of Sir Robert Harcourt, grandson of the persons last commemorated. He was standard bearer to the Earl of Richmond, afterwards Henry VII. at the battle of Bosworth, and was created a Knight of the Bath, by his successful patron. His effigies are sculptured in plated armour. On the front of the monument are four monks in black, and two angels, holding each a shield. A red rose, at the head, perpetuates the adherence of Sir Robert to the House of Lancaster.

Not far distant is a large mural monument, adorned with flowers, to the memory of Simon, only son of Simon, first Viscount

* There are only three examples of the garter being placed on the effigies of a female. One of these we have noticed at Ewelm; but the Duchess of Suffolk wears the garter shortly above the wrist. The third instance is Constance, wife of Sir John Grey, who was thus represented on her tomb in the collegiate church of St. Catharine, near the Tower of London.

Viscount Harcourt. On the tablet is an inscription in Latin, composed by Dr. Freind; below which are the well-known lines by Pope.

After quitting the costly records of departed greatness, our notice is attracted by a simple monumental tribute to a youthful pair, in humble life, whose story created much interest at the time of their decease. On the outside of the south wall is a tablet to the memory of John Hewit, and Sarah Drew, who were killed by lightning on "the last day of July, 1718." The tablet is honoured with this inscription by Pope:

Think not by rig'rous judgment seiz'd,
A pair so faithful could expire:
Victims so pure Heav'n saw well pleas'd,
And snatch'd them in celestial fire.

Live well, and fear no sudden fate!
When God calls virtue to the grave,
Alike 'tis justice, soon or late,
Mercy alike to kill or save.
Virtue unmov'd can hear the call,
And face the flash that melts the ball.

In a letter, written by Gay, this melancholy event is thus described:—"John Hewet was a well-set man, of about twenty-five. Sarah Drew might be called comely rather than beautiful, and was about the same age. They had passed through the various labours of the year together, with the greatest satisfaction. Their love was the talk of the whole neighbourhood, for scandal never affirmed that they had any other views than the lawful possession of each other in marriage. It was that very morning that they had obtained the consent of her parents, and it was but till the next week that they had to wait to be happy.

"Perhaps, in the interval of their work, they were now talking of their wedding clothes, and John was suiting several sorts of poppies and field flowers to her complexion, to choose her a hat for the wedding-day. While they were thus busied (it was be-

tween two and three in the afternoon) the clouds grew black; and such a storm of lightning and thunder ensued that all the labourers made the best of their way to what shelter the trees and hedges afforded. Sarah was frighted, and fell down in a swoon on a heap of barley. John, who never separated from her, sat down by her side, having raked together two or three heaps, the better to secure her from the storm.

"Immediately there was heard so loud a crack, as if heaven had split asunder! Every one was now solicitous for the safety of his neighbour; and they called to one another throughout the field. No answer being returned to those who called to our lovers, they stepped to the place where they lay. They perceived the barley all in a smoke, and then spied the faithful pair, John with one arm about Sarah's neck, and the other held over her as if to screen her from the lightning. They were struck dead, and stiffened in this tender posture. Sarah's left eye-brow was singed, and there appeared a black spot on her breast. Her lover was all over black; but not the least signs of life were found in either. Attended by their melancholy companions they were conveyed to the town, and next day were interred in Stanton Harcourt church yard."

In the neighbourhood of Stanton Harcourt are three large monumental stones, known by the name of the *Devil's Coits*. These, Warton, in his history of Kiddington, supposes were erected to commemorate a battle fought near Bampton, between the British and the Saxons, in the year 614; on which occasion the Saxon princes Cynegils and Cwhicelon slew a great number of the British. At a short distance was a barrow; but this is now destroyed.

The parish of COGGES claims notice in this hundred, although its lower division is not more than one quarter of a mile distant from the town of Witney. Cogges was the head of *the Barony of Arsic*. The Arsic family flourished here for several ages; and Manasser, one of the Lords of that house founded an alien priory of black monks, which was dissolved,

among other similar foundations, in the reign of Henry V. In the 29th of Henry III. the two daughters and heirs of Robert de Arsic, the last lord, passed away their paternal inheritance to Walter Gray, Archbishop of York. The manor of Cogges was afterwards vested in the Greys of Rotherfield, and was usually settled on the wives of that branch of the family, as a part of jointure. It then came to the Lovels, and was enjoyed by them till the forfeiture of the property appertaining to their house, in consequence of the attainder of Francis Lord Lovel, in the time of Henry VII.

In the reign of James I. William Pope, Earl of Downe, built a mansion on the site of the Priory. Some part of this structure is now remaining, a little eastward of the church, and is occupied as a farm-house.

The church is a humble Gothic building, supposed to have been raised by the Greys of Rotherfield. At the west end is an octangular turret, with a conical roofing of tiles. On the north of the chancel is the burial-place of the Blake family, parted from the church by wooden screen-work. One side of this partition has been irreverently placed so as completely to cut in two an enrobed figure, recumbent on an altar tomb. Both on the inner and outer sides of the entrance, is the resemblance of a skull, surrounded by a chaplet of evergreen.

DITCHLEY.

This seat is five miles from the town of Woodstock, on the north-west. About the reign of James I. the family of Lee acquired possession of this manor and its attached mansion. Their principal residence had hitherto been at Quarendon, in Bucks; but they shortly quitted that neighbourhood, and fixed at Ditchley. Sir Francis Henry Lee, the second Baronet of the family, died here, about 1641; and Anne, his widow, married Henry Wilmot, Viscount Athlone, and Earl of Rochester, the celebrated

celebrated loyalist. That nobleman resided at Ditchley, in right of his wife, and at this seat was born his son, the witty but ill-tutored earl, who closed his brief career at the High Lodge in Woodstock Park. Sir Francis Henry Lee, the younger son of Anne, Countess of Rochester, by her former husband, was father of the first Earl of Litchfield. The mansion was rebuilt by the elder brother of the last earl, and is now the property of Lord Viscount Dillon, but is occupied by the Earl of Ormond and Ossory.

The architect employed at Ditchley was Gibbs, and this house has been considered the best of his performances. In point of internal arrangement he is entitled to considerable praise; but, in a costly and extensive mansion, we look also for striking splendour of outward effect; and it would be difficult to discover this in the building of Ditchley. The house is entered by a moderate flight of stone steps, with a balustrade, and large vases on each side. The body of the structure is weighty; with many vases, and two statues, on the coping. On each side is a massy square wing, which is joined to the main building by a low piece of masonry, so evidently constructed only as a line of union that it detracts from the consequence of the whole, and forces us to regard the unornamented wings as separate elevations.

On entering the mansion, we discover the *Hall* to be a fine and spacious room, embellished with great labour and expense. No opportunity of decoration is lost. Carving and gilding seem to have bestowed their utmost; and the more grateful efforts of the pictorial art are also liberally interspersed. The ceiling is painted by Kent, with representations of the heathen gods and goddesses; and, worked into the costly compartments of the sides, are Venus giving the arms to Æneas, and Venus meeting Æneas in the Wood. Over the chimney is a portrait of Henry, second Earl of Litchfield, by Akerman. Even the settees in this room of entrance are richly carved and gilt. We are authorised in supposing that the character of a hall is intended to be indicative

dicative of that of the more important apartments. It would be truly injudicious if the eye were conducted to simplicity in the interior, after viewing splendour at the portal. Accordingly we find that the whole suite of principal rooms is highly ornamented; but the most interesting circumstances of embellishment consist in the numerous portraits here preserved; and to these we shall chiefly confine our attention.

In the *Breakfast Room*, among other paintings, are Reubens, his wife and son, hunting; the figures by Reubens, the animals by Scheighers. This is a large picture, replete with energy and fire. The figure of the son, who is in the act of striking with a boar-spear, is displayed with admirable skill.

A shooting piece, in which is introduced the late Earl of Litchfield, by Wootton.

Two full length portraits of ladies, by Paul Veronese.

The *Dining Room* is wainscotted, and adorned with numerous portraits. We select the following for notice:—

Charles I. by Vandyke. The Prince of Wales (Charles II.) a child in petticoats by his knee.

Henry VIII. a highly finished whole length, *supposed* by Holbein.

Mrs. Lucy Waters, with the Duke of Monmouth, an unattired infant, partly resting on a table, and playfully assisted by her arms.

Sir Christopher Hatton, by Cornelius Ketel; a full length. The form not remarkable for ease or grace, nor the countenance for manly character.

Sir Henry Lee, with the dog that saved his life, by Johnson. The figure expressive of vigorous old age; a leathern cloak thrown over the shoulders. The head and neck of the dog, a large, and as it would appear, not a very comely animal, are the only parts introduced to the picture. On a corner of the canvas is the following inscription:

More *Faithful* than *favoured.*

Reason in man cannot effect such love,
As nature doth in them that reason want:
Ulysses true and kind his dog did prove,
When Faith in better friends was very scant.

My travels for my friends have been as true,
Tho' not as far, as fortune did him bear;
No friends my Love and Faith divided knew,
Tho' neither this nor that once equall'd were.
But in my dog, whereof I made no store,
I find more love than them I trusted more.

The story connected with the above piece is thus related:

"A servant had formed a design to rob the house, and to murder his master. But, on the night this project was intended to be put in execution, the dog, though no favourite, nor indeed ever before taken notice of by his master, accompanied him up stairs, crept under the bed, and could not be driven away by the attendant; when at length, Sir Henry ordered him to be left; and, in the dead of night, the treacherous servant, entering the room to execute his design, was instantly seized by the dog; and, on being secured, confessed his intention."

The *Green Paper Drawing Room* has a chimney-piece of ponderous construction, but of finely variegated marble. Among the paintings are portraits of Admiral Lee, brother to the second Earl of Litchfield; and of the Duchess of Cleveland. The latter piece is by Sir Peter Lely, and represents a woman of small stature, encumbered with a large hoop. She is in mourning attire, richly interspersed with lace-work.

In this room is a handsome, and very large, China bowl, presented by Charles II. to the first Countess of Litchfield.

The *Tapestry Drawing Room* is of moderate, but pleasing, proportions; and the whole apartment possesses an attractive air of warmth and comfort. Two sides are covered with tapestry, representing

representing a vintage; and Apollo, the Muses, and the Gods and Goddesses sitting at table. The execution of both divisions is far from excellent. Among several portraits in this room are, Sir Francis Lee, by Vandyke, in his happiest style. The subject is represented in a robe of satin, sitting on a bank, beneath the shelter of a tree. The face is youthful, and full of character. The drapery very good, and the lights and shades finely disposed.

Lady Rochester, by Sir Peter Lely. As this lady was by no means eminent for beauty, she was unfortunate in perpetuating her character of form during the prevalence of a system of exposure. The bosom is pressed upwards, by the dress, in the unpleasing manner usual with modern times, and if possible with still less delicacy.

Sir Henry Lee, in the robes of the garter; a full length, by Johnson. The face venerable and interesting. The hands, which are shrivelled in age, extremely well executed.

The ceiling of the *Saloon* is ornamented with stucco work, and the sides are occupied by embellishments of the same description. There are two modern busts in this room, together with an antique statue of Hygeia. The windows command pleasing views over the attached grounds, enlivened by two small decorative buildings.

The *Green Damask Drawing Room* is not large, but of a most inviting aspect. A landscape by Wootton is worked into the ornaments which surmount the beautiful chimney-piece of statuary marble. Among the pictures are,

A Sleeping Venus and Painter, by Titian.

The Angel Gabriel, by Guido. Replete with the elegance of conception and delicacy of colouring so conspicuous in many of his works.

Sir Francis Drake. A ring hanging from his neck by a scarlet cord. Through the ring is passed the thumb of his left hand.

The *Great Drawing Room* is about 37 feet in length, by 26

in width. The ceiling and sides are abundantly decorated with carving and gilding, on a white ground. The furniture and curtains are crimson. A landscape, by Wootton, is inserted in the ornaments above the chimney-piece. This room is adorned with some fine whole-length Portraits, by Sir Peter Lely:

Charles II. sitting in a chair of state, with his crown and sceptre on a table. The display of this piece is very striking, and much superior to that usually effected by Lely.

The Duchess of Cleveland.

Charlotte Fitzroy, first Countess of Litchfield, and second daughter of Charles II. by the Duchess of Cleveland. A portrait of much character. Robes loosely thrown over the form, so as to produce an appearance of ease, emulative of Grecian freedom, and superior to all vicissitudes of fashion. No master, who wishes his works to descend in a fair light to posterity, should neglect this practice where it is attainable.

The Duke of Grafton, brother to Lady Charlotte Fitzroy.

The hangings of the apartment termed the *Velvet Bed-chamber*, are of Genoa velvet, brought to England by Admiral Lee. The basis of these fine hangings is green satin, on which is arranged raised velvet work, of crimson and green. Every spot not occupied by the hangings is ornamented with carving and gilding of the most expensive description. The bed-furniture is of velvet, to match the hangings.

The *Chinese Drawing-Room* is hung with tapestry, of better execution than that before noticed. The subjects represented are, Venus ordering the Armour for Æneas; and Neptune giving directions for the first Ship that was built, &c.

Over the chimney is a fine groupe of the Duke and Duchess of York, with the princesses Mary and Anne, by Sir Peter Lely.

There are two chapels, a Protestant and a Catholic. The latter is closed. The former is a neat and appropriate building, with an altar-piece by Poussin, of the Descent from the Cross.

We

We must not quit Ditchley without observing that there is an air of vivacity, warmth, and comfort, prevailing throughout the apartments, unusual in structures so splendid. We cannot avoid thinking that if less gold-leaf had been employed the general effect would have been still more grateful; but, perhaps, the extremity of height to which many of the rooms are decorated, strikes more forcibly from the effect of contrast with the weighty plainness of the exterior. The few instances of ornament on the outside give us little reason to expect any thing bordering on a costly description of embellishment within. The collection of portraits preserved in this mansion is truly estimable.

The Park is large, but does not claim notice for any peculiar elegance of disposal. It is, however, well sprinkled with timber; and from many points are obtained pleasing views over the adjacent country.

Not more than one mile from Ditchley Park, is KIDDINGTON. In attention to its British etymology, the name of this place was anciently written *Cudenton*, or the Town among the Woods. The village is pleasantly situated on the river Glyme, which divides it into two districts, termed the Upper and Lower Town, or Over and Nether Kiddington.*

The property of this village is traced by Warton as far back as 780; about which year King Offa gave Kiddington and Heythorp to the episcopal priory of Worcester, from which they were shortly wrested by the Danes; nor were they ever restored. At the time of the Norman survey, Hascoit Musard was the chief land-holder. In the reign of Henry I. the Norman family of De Salcey seem to have become proprietors. The De Salceys, though not noticed in history, were possessed of considerable power, and were very rich in this county. They appear to have constructed a house at Kiddington. After an intermediate transmission, in consequence of the marriage of a female of the De Salceys, the

 estate

* The Upper Town is in Chadlington Hundred.—Kiddington has been fortunate in meeting with an erudite historian, Mr. T. Warton; to whose work our notice of this village is much indebted.

estate was acquired, in the reign of Henry VI. by the family of Babington; and, about the year 1613, the Babingtons sold it to Sir Henry Browne, third son of the first Lord Viscount Montague. This latter family have constantly resided at Kiddington since the beginning of the reign of James I. Their present representative is Charles Mostyn Browne, Esq.

The mansion was chiefly built, or repaired, by Sir Henry Browne, in 1673, on the foundations of an old seat, to which appertained a walled park. It is situated on a gentle rise, and is pleasantly ornamented with an alternation of wood and water. Many valuable family portraits, by eminent masters in the reigns of Mary, Elizabeth, James, and Charles I. are preserved in different apartments.

In the garden is placed a relique of some interest;—the font in which it is said King Edward the Confessor was baptized at Islip. The block of stone in which the basin of immersion is excavated, is unusually massy. It is of an octangular shape, and the outside is adorned by tracery work. The interior diameter of the basin is thirty inches, and the depth twenty. The whole, with the pedestal, which is of a piece with the rest, is five feet high, and bears the following imperfect inscription:

This sacred Font Saint Edward first recsard.
From Womb to Grace, from Grace to Glory went
His virtuous Life. To this fayre Isle beqveth'd.
Prase . . . . and to vs but lent.
Let this remaine, the Trophies of his Fame,
A King baptizd from hence a Saint became.

Then is inscribed:

This Fonte came from the King's Chapell
in Islip.

This relique is evidently an ancient piece of workmanship; but, in the opinion of Warton, "the tracery and construction do not agree with the rudeness of art in so barbarous a time as that of

of Edward the Confessor." The abbots of Westminster had a country seat at Islip; and it is supposed that the monks performed regular service in the chapel at that place till their dissolution. It was evidently to their advantage to retain, under all circumstances, a *nominal* font connected with the baptismal benediction of so saintly a king. The inscription, though of a comparatively modern date, was still probably made long before the removal of the font from Islip chapel.

The Church is situated in Lower Kiddington, and is said by Browne Willis to be dedicated to St. Nicholas; but the annual wake is celebrated on the Sunday following the festival of St. Peter. The building principally consists of one aisle and a chancel; but, on the south, is a "lateral projection, or semi-transept. This was probably only intended for a sepulchral aisle to cover a family vault. Within its southern wall are two niches for holy water. We may therefore suppose that there was once an altar, perhaps two, in the semi-transept." The whole fabric is ceiled with rafter-work. The body of the church appears to have been built about the year 1400; and the semi-transept, or chapel, soon after. The chancel is evidently the remain of an older church, and bears marks of the Saxon, or early Norman style of architecture. At the back of the present altar a large arch is walled up, which seems to have opened eastward into a more extended edifice. The zigzagged semicircle of this arch remains entire. On the outside of that part of the building which constitutes the present chancel, is a series of grotesque ornaments in stone, resembling heads placed horizontally. The more ancient church is supposed by Warton to have been built by the family of De Salcey, about the time of Stephen, or at least before the completion of the twelfth century. At the west end, coeval with the body of the church, is a low square tower, containing three large bells, and a sanctus, or saint's, bell.

In that division of the parish called The Upper Town, is the ruin of the old parochial cross, comprising parts of the shaft and base, built of stone.

Near Upper Kiddington runs an antient way, from which the neighbouring hamlet of Ditchley derives its name. This is thought by Warton to be British, and to have been merely intended as a boundary.

At the distance of half a mile from the same part of the village is a single farm-house, termed *Asterley*, which also denominates a manor. Asterley was once a parish; and in a field, called *Chapel-Breke*, have been turned up pieces of the mouldings of lancet-windows, and other fragments of antient masonry. The church of Asterley was united with that of Kiddington, by the bishop of Lincoln, in 1466.

At GLYMPTON one mile south by east of Kiddington, Mrs. Wheate has a pleasant residence. In the chancel of the church is a raised monument of stone; and, under the portraiture on a brass plate of a man in a gown, is an inscription to the memory of Thomas Tesdale, "who was liberally beneficial to Baliol College, Oxford, and to the free school at Abingdon in Berks." He died nearly at 63 years of age, at Glympton, on the 13th of June, 1610. His wife, Maud, a native of Henley, survived him six years, and lies buried near him. She appears to have been a woman of a very charitable disposition, and was said in her epitaph to have "lovingly anointed Christ Jesus, in his poore members, at Glympton, Charlbury, Ascot," and other places.

The liberal bequest of Mr. Tesdale, which was employed by the trustees for the benefit of Pembroke College, Oxford, will here be recollected.

HEYTHORP,

the seat of the Earl of Shrewsbury, next demands notice. This mansion is about four miles on the south east of Chipping Norton. Adjoining the park, in the vicinity of the usual entrance, is Heythorp Church, a small but venerable building. On the south is a Saxon, or early Norman, doorway, the fillets of the semicircle supported on each side by two pillars, with dissimilar capitals.

tals. On the same side of the church, over a narrow round-headed window, now stopped up, is a small tablet, rudely sculptured with the resemblance of an animal, and a cross in the back ground. Three windows of early Gothic light the building from this division. At the east end is a window of the same character, nearly obscured by ivy. On the north side is a round-headed doorcase; over which, on a stone tablet, are sculptured very rudely two figures, each having a crosier in the left hand. The church has no tower; and one bell is placed at the west end, in a humble turret.

The mansion is approached by a noble avenue of trees, more than a mile in length, which has little of formality in its aspect, as the edge of the respective lines is judiciously broken, though an apparent magnificence of lineal correctness is still preserved in the perspective view. The house was built by *Archer*, of whose professional talents Lord Orford speaks with much disdain; but, in neglect of the opinion delivered by this critical lord, most examiners will probably deem Heythorp a fine and attractive specimen of the decorated style. The grand, or northern, front, has a central portico of entrance, adorned by four lofty Corinthian columns. On either side is a handsome and spacious wing, joined to the main division of the building by tasteful ranges of masonry. The south front has a flight of stone steps, with two ascents. Over the entrance are the family arms. Each lateral portion of the same front is embellished with columns. A balustrade of stone ranges along the top of the whole structure.

The Hall is of lofty proportions. The floor is of black and white marble: the sides are painted in blue pannels, with some few adornments of stucco work.

The room denominated *the Library* is 83 feet in length, and 20 in height, but is now destitute of books. The sides are ornamented with fine stucco work. Over the recesses intended for book-cases are medallions of Homer, Plato, Thucydides, Cicero, Shakspeare, and Inigo Jones. The compartments above the entrances are embellished with stucco work, illustrative of some of the

the Fables of Æsop. There are, likewise, many pendant ornaments, in alto relievo, of military, musical, and mathematical instruments, with interspersed fruit and flowers. From the centre of the gallery a fine and compendious view is obtained of the park and the chief features of the surrounding country. Folding doors open at three sides, and permit a prospect completely *through* the different attached rooms. A fourth doorway opens directly on the terrace; and thus a full view of the adjacent scenery is obtained at each point of the compass. The effect produced is extremely fine. The scenery is highly embellished; and, by this contrivance, we form a comprehensive and magnificent notion of the amplitude of the domain appertaining to the mansion in which we stand.

The *Drawing Room* is 47 feet in length, by 25 in breadth. The walls of this room are hung with tapestry, by Vanderborght, representing the four quarters of the world. Each division of the hangings is extremely well executed. Europe is fancifully designated by characters in masquerade costume. The design of the compartment emblematic of Africa is conspicuously entitled to praise. The grouping is fine, and much force of character is delineated. Every figure conduces to the animation of the scene, and possesses a separate interest.

Over the four doors are very masterly pieces, in claro obscuro, description of the seasons and elements. The chimney piece, composed of statuary and Egyptian marble, is eminently beautiful. The cornice of this room is supported by figures of Ceres and Flora, about five feet high. The ceiling is ornamented with stucco work, representing the four quarters of the globe, with the elements and seasons; the whole surrounded by a Corinthian entablature. Over the chimney is a painting of the Destruction of Pharaoh and his Host, in the Red Sea, by Van Orley.

The *Small Drawing Room* is likewise ornamented with fine stucco work, and the windows command attractive views. The foreground is a fair and wide expanse of lawn, edged by groupes of well-planted trees. At one point is a small disclosure of water;

ter; and, through Vistas so judiciously designed as to appear natural circumstances, is beheld a rural and soft range of scene, enlivened at a happy distance by the village of Enstone.

This superb mansion is well calculated for a residence of the first order, but it has never been completely adapted to family use. The rooms are of good proportions, and are tastefully disposed by the architect for the purposes of state and pleasure. It is to be regretted that the interior of a building, sumptuously ornamented in its outward features by the Corinthian order, should contain no higher works of art than stucco and tapestry; though these are, certainly, some of the best of their respective kinds.

The grounds attached to the mansion are extensive, and are finely adorned by wood and water. Several cascades, and ornamental buildings, in different parts of the domain, have suffered considerably from neglect, as the noble owner has for some time used Heythorp only as an occasional residence. In the gardens is a conservatory, 248 feet in length. This building is so well placed, and judiciously managed, that twenty-two peach and nectarine trees have yielded sixty dozen fruit on each tree. Some of the peaches have weighed fourteen ounces. The vines have produced six thousand eight hundred bunches.

A chapel of some extent is at this time erecting, at a short distance from the mansion.

The village of GREAT TEW is about three miles from the seat of the Earl of Shrewsbury, at Heythorp. The situation is agreeable, though deeply secluded. The surrounding country has all the fine variety of feature which springs from unevenness of surface. The manor was long vested in the family of Raynsford, now of Northamptonshire. From them it passed to Sir Laurence Tanfield, Knt. whose name will again occur in our notice of the town of Burford. The only daughter and heiress of Sir Laurence Tanfield, married Henry, Lord Viscount

Falkland, Lord Deputy of Ireland, and father of the distinguished nobleman who fell in the battle of Newbury. The Keck family afterwards enjoyed this property; to whom succeeded the father of George Stratton, Esq. the present proprietor. By this latter gentleman the ancient seat has been demolished, and the contiguous park is let for the feeding of cattle. Mr. Stratton, some short time back, threw many moderate farms on this estate into two on a very extensive scale, which were placed under the opposite agricultural systems of Scotland and Ireland. For one of the speculators he raised an immense stack of buildings, which occupy three sides of a square, and contain, besides usual and unusual farm-buildings, a farriery, and various other accommodations. To render the system of experiment complete at every point, this extensive range was covered with paper, manufactured at Eynsham Mill. But the paper was not found to answer so well as slate! Mr. Stratton's fine estate is now on sale.

At Great Tew Park resided Lucius, Viscount Falkland, the son of the Lord Deputy, and one of the best nobles that graced the court of the first Charles. This eminent person received the early part of education in Ireland; but afterwards feeling a deficiency in classic acquirement, he resolved to seclude himself, with rigorous pertinacity, till he had made a progress adequate to his own conception of the degree of learning necessary to the complete gentleman. His mansion was fortunately not far distant from one of the great marts of erudition, and he contracted a familiar friendship with the most distinguished members of the University. These scholars found in their youthful acquaintance so much talent, modesty, and urbanity, that they frequently resorted to Tew Park, "and dwelt with him," says Clarendon, "as in a college situated in a purer air; so that his house was a university in a less volume, whither they came not so much for repose as for study, and to examine and refine those grosser propositions which laziness and consent rendered current in vulgar conversation."

Many

Many attempts were made, at the instigation of his mother, a woman of a haughty temper and bigotted principles, to reconcile him to the church of Rome. He, however, remained fixed in his religious opinions, though all his disputes with the priests who crowded round his mother were conducted with so much forbearance that his opponents did not abandon a hope of ultimate success. But, this mildness met with an ungracious return: his younger brothers, and a sister, were perverted to the Roman Catholic mode of faith. Incensed by the advantage thus taken over extreme youth and inexperience, he wrote, while resident in this mansion, two large discourses against the principal positions of the Papists, "with that sharpness of style, and full weight of reason, that," in the opinion of Lord Clarendon, "the church is deprived of great jewels in the concealment of them."

The *Church* of this village is a handsome pile, chiefly Gothic, but with a round-headed door-case at the principal entrance, supported by pillars with diversified capitals. The interior is divided by two rows of Gothic arches. The pews are ancient, and without any doors, but are ornamented with much rude carving. Separated from the body of the church by wooden screen work, is a room called the manorial chapel. This was merely the seat belonging to the family of the antient lord of the district.

In the chancel are many old brasses, among which is one containing the effigy of a man in robes, seated before a large crucifix. This is shewn, by some part of an inscription remaining on the edge, to be the effigy of "William Raynsford, Armiger, lately of the village of Great Tew, and Lord of the Manor." Inarched on one side of the manorial chapel are two proportions, carved in stone. The one is that of a cross-legged knight, resting on a lion; a shield on his arm, and a hand on the hilt of his sword. The other is the effigies of a lady, her feet resting on a bull-dog of the true English breed, which is in

the action of springing forwards, as if to defend her. Her hands are crossed over the breast, in the attitude of supplication.

It appears likely that a branch of one of the minor Roman roads ran near the village of Great Tew; and we have proofs that the Romans resided for some time in the neighbourhood. Dr. Plot * mentions a tessellated pavement, ploughed up, "somewhere about this village, which consisted of a matter much softer than marble, cut into squares, somewhat bigger than dice, of four different colours; viz. blue, white, yellow, and red; all polished, and orderly disposed into works."

Some discoveries have, likewise, been very recently made. Disclosure, as usual, was promptly followed by destruction; but the resident clergyman of Great Tew, the Rev. Mr. Nash, took a written notice of every circumstance that came under his observation; and he has obliged us with a copy of his manuscript. We present it without any comment.

"On the 22d of May, 1810, as some workmen were making a ditch for a threshing machine, under the direction of Captain Stenhouse Wood, at Beaconfield farm, in the parish of Great Tew, they found, on advancing up the hill, that the earth in many parts had been disturbed; and, occasionally, they met with bones, wood-ashes, and black earths like soot. Sometimes these were at the depth of three or four feet beneath the surface; and, in some instances, they came to them more readily. When their work proceeded to the Rick-yard, they were stopped by a wall of some strength, and an ante-passage, with an entrance-door walled up. When part of it was taken down, they discovered a Roman burial vault, nearly as perfect as when it was retained in use. It measured where disturbed twenty feet in length, and in width eighteen feet; the height was eight feet from the planking stones. It had a half-circle to the north, of rough stone, eight feet in diameter, which probably corresponded with a window of the temple that was built over it. The ball which appeared

* Natural History, &c. page 327.

appeared to have finished the top was lying among the rubbish.

"The human remains were laid in partitions of a dissimilar width, which crossed the vault from east to west, and were built with Roman red tiles, about eight inches and a half square. Many of the bones that had been covered with sand were very perfect; and the teeth of some of them were sound in the jaws. The partitions were two feet and a half deep, and were generally about the width of our graves. These sepulchral receptacles were covered with plank tiles, which had the same fresh appearance as when first taken from the kiln. Juvenal, in his Vth Satire, has these words: Exigua feralis cœna patella. In illustration of this passage it is observed, that the Romans used to place in their sepulchres, to appease the spirits of the deceased, a little milk, honey, water, and wine; together with olives and flowers. We examined the graves, or recesses, and found some of the small thin basins of black Roman pottery alluded to. Sometimes a red Roman ash urn was discovered among the rubbish. The dimensions of the red planking tiles were various. Some were eleven inches and a half square; others were twenty-three inches and a half square; and some were twenty-one inches by eleven inches. The whole were one inch and a half thick.

"There were two tiers of sepulchral recesses; and above was a spread of planking tiles, covered with mortar and sand, to the thickness of about two inches, in which was set tessellated work. The squares were of various colours; white, dark, red, and blue. Some of them were white stones, covered; and others were formed of white or pottery clay. The ornaments were urns and serpentine lines. This appears to have been the temple floor. There were red earthen flues, about one foot and a half long, with equilateral triangles, inverted like an hour glass, and cut open for air holes on the narrow sides. The walls were all plaistered, except the half-circle to the north. Some of the plaister was as white as that made from burned shells. The temple had been covered in with small flat stones, such as are usually

usually found in sand beds, with peg-holes on either side. The greater part of the persons buried were *minores igne Rogi.*

"The Roman altar, where the sacrifices were burned, stood in the open air, twenty feet below the temple, to the south, and there were many ashes remaining, in much the same state as when originally left.

"A Roman bath was afterwards found, on the north of the temple, and was abruptly destroyed. Many pieces of large red water pipe shared the same fate. There were also found several large ornamental red jars, and coins of copper and brass, the copper much defaced, but the brass in a good state of preservation."

Mr. Nash has, likewise, favoured us by observing that, "in the year 1809, as some workmen were digging a mill pond in a vale of the north field of the parish of Great Tew, which has communication with the Charwell and the Thames, and consequently with the sea, they met with a fossil bed, in which were found an immense quantity of seal's tusks, and the sockets of their eyes; sea eels; hen fish; oysters; cockles; and the tails of lobsters; in a dilapidated state."

Barford St. Michael, situated four miles from the village last mentioned, is usually termed *Great* Barford, to distinguish it from a parish about half a mile distant in Bloxham hundred. The church has marks of considerable antiquity. The north door furnishes a fine specimen of the ornamented Saxon or early Norman style. From the lancet shape of some of the windows it may be presumed that the greater part of the building was constructed about the time of Henry III. The pulpit appears formerly to have been of stone. The base still remains, on which the present wooden pulpit was erected about a century ago. Fixed to the adjoining pillar is an iron frame, in which was antiently contained the sand glass that regulated the length of the sermon. In one of the windows are three diamond shaped panes of white glass, having a crowned H, of the Saxon form, in yellow; denoting,

ing, in all probability, the initial letter of Henry the sixth or Seventh, in whose reign the building was perhaps adorned with stained glass. The church-yard is singular for its inequality of surface, and for the great number of stones thrown up in the digging of graves. From these circumstances it seems likely that the church was formed of materials raised upon the spot.

THE TOWN OF DEDDINGTON

is situate near the Northamptonshire edge of the county, and is distant seventeen miles from the city of Oxford, and six miles from Banbury. The manor of Deddington was possessed, in the 12th century, by the family of Chesny. It was afterwards given by King John to Thomas Basset, Baron of Headington; who bestowed it (under the name of Dadington, alias Dedington,) in marriage with his daughter, on William De Malet, Baron of Cury-Malet, in the county of Somerset. But this William De Malet being taken in arms against the king, he was disseised of his lands, and the manor was restored to the Bassets. It appears to have been divided into three parts at an early period; for we are told that Humphrey, the good Duke of Gloucester, died possessed of a third portion. In 1420 the manor was valued at 13l. 6s. 8d. It constitutes now three several properties; which belong to the dean and canons of Windsor; the dean and chapter of Christ Church, Oxford; and William Ralph Cartwright, Esq. Each appoints a steward, who holds a court baron. The court leet is held by them jointly.

The town is small, and has no staple manufacture. The buildings are composed of the ordinary kind of stone produced in the neighbourhood, and are in general on a contracted scale. Some few houses soar above the others in character, and unite adornment with convenience; but these are truly few in number. The Oxford Canal is brought within two miles of the town, but it does not appear to have given any hints of extended commerce to

the inhabitants. Dr. Plot found that antient game the *Quintain* much practised here. The sport is now entirely disused, and the oldest man in the town does not remember to have heard his father mention the custom in any other than a traditional way.—A circumstance somewhat singular when we consider that Dr. Plot wrote near the conclusion of the 17th century. The market place was usually the theatre of this humourous exercise.*

Near the church is a square and lofty domestic building of considerable antiquity, with an open balustrade of stone at the top. The rooms are spacious, and the staircase is somewhat rudely, yet laboriously, carved. One of the upper apartments, now closed, is said to have been used as a Catholic oratory. The building belongs to the lay impropriator, and is tenanted by a farmer.

There was pulled down, about two years back, an extensive building, of some interest, which Gough mentions as "an old inn, chiefly of stone, for Pilgrims." A neighbouring gentleman, who examined this antient structure immediately previous to its demolition, informs us that it then consisted of a north and a south side, which bore evident marks of having been connected with each other at both ends by other buildings, so as to form a spacious court, or quadrangle. The entrance was by a stone porch, through a large door, which had a smaller aperture for common use. The small door had been decorated with heraldic devices,

* "In running at the Quintain," says Plot, "they first set a post perpendicularly in the ground, and then place a slender piece of timber on the top of it, on a spindle, with a board nailed to it on one end, and a bag of sand hanging at the other. Against this board they antiently rode with spears; now, as I saw it at Deddington, only with strong staves, which violently bringing about the bag of sand, if they make not good speed away it strikes them in the neck or shoulders, and sometimes knocks them from their horses; the great design of the sport being to try the agility both of man and horse, and to break the board."

This exercise was practised by the Romans, and Kennet observes that he never met with it at any place which was not in the former neighbourhood of Roman settlements.

devices, carved on the wood; all of which were much defaced. On each side the entrance were large apartments, separated by a stone wall of great thickness, in which were constructed the chimneys, and two flights of stone stairs, much worn away. The staircase on the left of the entrance led to the upper apartments on the right; and the other on the right of the entrance led to upper rooms on the left. All these apartments were wainscotted with oak, in carved and fluted pannels; and such of the ceilings as remained were ornamented with fret work.

The cellar of a dwelling in this town, now used as a public house, is vaulted with groined arches of stone, springing at a short distance from the ground.

Deddington possessed a castle, which, from the amplitude of its site, was probably a structure of much strength and consequence. No part of the building is now remaining. A wide fosse went completely round, and is still distinctly marked through its whole progress, though in some places overgrown with brambles, and in others shaded with trees. Some persons were digging for building materials at the eastern end of the area, when we visited the spot, and it appears that the walls in this direction were about six feet thick, and had an outward and inner casing of very good stone, the space between being filled with sand and rubble stone. The whole of the area may, perhaps, comprehend six acres.

The period at which the castle was erected cannot be ascertained. Dr. Plot says that he meets with nothing concerning it till the reign of Edward II. It is, however, mentioned by Dugdale and Kennet, that "the manor of Deddington had, in the tenth of Richard I. a castle fortified in it, which soon after belonged to Wido de Diva, whose possessions King John seized, and, in the sixth of his reign, sent a precept to the sheriff of Oxfordshire to restore without delay all his lands and chattels, except the Castle of Deddington, which the king would keep in his own hands."

In the early part of Edward the Second's imprudent reign, a

tumultuous scene occurred at Deddington. Many of the antient nobles, incensed at the assumptions of Piers Gaveston, took to arms, and seized the favourite at Scarborough. The King requested that he might allow an interview, and the insurgent lords appeared to agree with his wish. The Earl of Pembroke, accordingly, proceeded with Gaveston towards Wallingford, in which town the King then lay. They halted in their journey at Deddington; but here it was soon evident that there was no real intention of suffering the Captive to approach the protection of his regal master. He was seized in the night, by the Earl of Warwick, and hurried to Blacklow Hill, where he was beheaded. The circumstances of his seizure are variously related. Some writers say that the Earl of Pembroke placed him in the castle, though with a weak guard, while himself went to lodge with his lady, who lay at a little distance. Others tell us that the Earl repaired to the castle, and consigned Gaveston for lodging to a house in the town.* At all events it appears that Pembroke willingly averted his attention from the assault intended to destroy the man whom he should have safely presented to the King.

Deddington has one church, a handsome Gothic building, with a tower at the west end. A considerable portion of this tower fell down in 1634; and, from the present proportions, it does not appear to have been rebuilt to the original height. At the angles are weighty graduated buttresses, and on the western front are figures of St. Peter and St. Paul, the patron saints, carved in stone. At the top of the tower are eight jagged pinnacles.

The interior is divided into a nave, chancel, and two aisles. In the chancel are the three stone recesses, about five feet high, used by the priest and deacons during the performance of high mass. Nearer to the altar is the piscina. The pewing and furniture possess little elegance of character. The church contains some antient brasses, and many stones from which the brass is gone.

* If so, the building in which Gaveston was placed was, probably, the "Pilgrim's House of Resort," before noticed.

gone. Obscured by the frame-work of a pew in the north aisle, is an altar-tomb of grey stone, surmounted by a mural tablet, on which is a mutilated brass. Inarched in the south aisle is the stone effigies of a female, the hands in a devotional posture. The robes plaited. The spring of the arch beneath which this monument is placed has steps formed in it, which ascend to a considerable height.

In Deddington was born Sir Thomas Pope, some circumstances of whose life we have noticed in our account of Trinity College, Oxford. He founded a free school here; but, when we compare this benefaction with his munificent bounty to Trinity College, we cannot think that he entertained any strong predilection for his native town. The boys are few in number, and they are instructed in a small room divided from the church, as there is no appropriate building for their reception.

Sir William Scroggs was also a native of Deddington. His father was a tradesman of the town, and is by some said to have been a butcher. He, however, possessed both property and influence, as he not only placed his son at Oriel College, Oxford, but procured for him the reversion of a church living. When the civil war broke out the son quitted his studies, and bore arms in the royal cause. He obtained the commission of a captain of foot, but afterwards entered of Gray's Inn, and was called to the bar. He attained much celebrity in his profession, and on the Restoration was made a serjeant, and, shortly after, Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench. For a time he was high in favour with the court; but his zeal was subsequently suspected, and articles of accusation were preferred against him in the House of Commons. The intended prosecution, however, was abandoned on his removal; and he retired to a seat in Essex, where he died, in the year 1683.

Deddington was formerly a corporate town, and sent two burgesses to Parliament in the 30th of Edward I. and in the 32d and 33d of Edward III.; but was afterwards relieved from this duty, by petition. The town is nominally governed by a bailiff, but

this officer is chosen by the persons holding the lordship of the manor, and has hitherto not been accustomed to exercise any jurisdiction in the town.

The register commences in 1631, and contains many entries of marriages by the civil power, in the 17th century, after three publications in the Market Place. A weekly market, which is but thinly attended, is held on Saturdays. The population was returned in 1811 at 1,296. The same return states the number of houses to be 256.

DUNS TEW, a village two miles from Deddington, on the south-west, furnished Dr. Plot with one of those wonderful stories which he was so fond of collecting. In the year 1650, Anne Green, servant to Sir Thomas Read, of this parish, was convicted of the murder of her illegitimate child, and was hung in the castle yard at Oxford, for about half an hour. In order to accelerate her dissolution she was "pulled by the legs, and struck on the breast, (as she herself desired,) by divers of her friends; and, after all, had several strokes given her on the stomach with the but-end of a soldier's musket." But when Sir William Petty, then anatomy professor of the university, and other gentlemen, were about to prepare the body for dissection, they perceived symptoms of life; and, on using proper means for her recovery, "in fourteen hours she began to speak, and the next day talked and prayed very heartily." She afterwards retired to her friends at Steeple Barton, where she *married*, and had several children.

The neighbouring village of NORTH ASTON is decorated by the handsome residence of G. O. Bowles, Esq. The gardens are laid out with much taste, and contain among other interesting articles, numerous specimens of *grasses*.

At STEEPLE ASTON, two miles distant from the hamlet last noticed, Dr. Samuel Radcliffe, principal of Brasenose College, Oxford, and rector of this church, founded a free school in 1640, and endowed it with ten pounds *per ann.* He died in 1648, and lies buried in the church. At his death he bequeathed an additional

ten

ten pounds to the master, and directed grammar to be taught in his school. He, likewise, endowed an almshouse for poor women, in this parish. The manor of Aston was long vested in the noble family of Molins, from whom it was formerly termed Aston-Molins. In the reign of Henry VI. a daughter of William, Lord Molins carried the estate by marriage to the Hungerfords. A tessellated pavement was ploughed up in this parish, in the 17th century.

Pursuing the meanders of the River Charwell, we speedily arrive at ROUSHAM. This manor was for some time the property of the Dormers; several of which family are buried in the contiguous church of Steeple Barton. The mansion is now the residence of Lady Cottrel.

At the distance of two miles is TACKLEY. This manor belonged to the family of Nowers, and afterwards to that of Aylworth. Lady Gardiner has here a handsome seat, which has recently been much improved.

Wootton Hundred produces a rich variety of *plants*. For a general idea of these we refer to Dr. Mavor's comprehensive work concerning Blenheim Castle and its attached domain.

BAMPTON HUNDRED,

Is separated from Wootton by the River Windrush, and is bounded by Gloucestershire, on the west. The soil inclines much to gravel, with intervening tracts of black loam and clay. Many parts of this district are low and wet, abounding with meadow and pasture ground. The Akeman Street passed through this hundred into Gloucestershire.

The money raised for the poor, &c. in the year ending Easter, 1803, was 11,740l. 19s. 2¼d. making an average of 6s. 1¼d. in the pound.

Bampton hundred contains three market towns, BERFORD, WITNEY, and BAMPTON; the township of *Grafton*; the chapelries of *Shifford* and *Holwell*; together with the parishes and hamlets of *Alvescott*; *Astall* and *Astall Leigh*; *Aston* and *Cote*; *Black Bourton*; *Brighthampton* (part of) *Bradwell*; *Broughton-*

Poggs; Chimley; Clanfield; Crawley; Curbridge; Ducklington; Filkins; Hailey; Hardwicke; Kelmscott; Kencott; Lew; Brize-Norton; Radcot; Standlake, with part of Brighthampton; *Upton* and *Signet; Westwell; Yelford.*

BURFORD

is a market town situate at the western extremity of the county, on the border of Gloucestershire. The houses are antient in general character, and are, with a very few exceptions, irregular and ill-built. This place was formerly much engaged in the manufactory of coarse woollen cloths; and, in the early part of the last century, great quantities of malt were made here, and conveyed to London by the River Thames from Radcot Bridge. But both trades are now fallen into entire decay. The great number of malthouses, either in ruins or converted to other purposes, shew the extent to which the latter branch was once cultivated. Its weekly market, and its situation on the high road from London to South Wales, appear to form the most profitable resources of the town.*

Here was formerly a small priory dedicated to St. John, and valued at 13l. 6s. 6d. No part of the building now remains; but, at the dissolution, it was granted to Edmund Harman, Esq. and by this gentleman it appears probable that the present handsome mansion, termed *the Priory* was constructed, as a private residence. This estate afterwards became the property of Sir Laurence Tanfield, Knt. whose only daughter married Henry, Lord Falkland. Sir Laurence left the Priory, in conjunction with the chief part of his other estates, after the death of his lady, who deceased in 1629, to his grandson, the gallant Lord Falkland, killed at Newbury. Shortly after the death of this nobleman, the priory was purchased by William Lenthal, Esq. the celebrated Speaker of the House of Commons. Mr. Lenthal long lived here, in

* In consequence of this want of trade the poor rates are extremely high. In the year ending at Easter 1813, they amount to eighteen shillings in the pound, at rack rent.

in a dignified retirement; and the building is still the property and residence of his descendant.

This mansion is the great ornament of Burford. Much of the old house has lately been taken down, but some fresh rooms have been added, more suited to the needs of an improved elegance of manners. Adjoining is a chapel built by the Speaker Lenthal. In the Priory are preserved several fine paintings, some of which were brought here from the collection of King Charles I. at Hampton Court, when those paintings were sold by order of the House of Commons.

Among these are,

Sir Thomas More and his family, by Holbein. This picture contains many figures, and is esteemed one of Holbein's principal pieces. The size is twelve feet by eight.

King Charles I. by Cornelius Jansen.

Queen Henrietta Maria, by Vandyke.

Henry, Prince of Wales, eldest brother of Charles the First, by C. Jansen.

A Sleeping Venus, by Cornegio.

Venus, with Mercury teaching Cupid to read, by the same master.

Lady Falkland.

Lucius, Lord Falkland, who fell at Newbury. Both these portraits are by Vandyke.

Moses striking the Rock, by Bassau.

The *church* of Burford * is a large and handsome building of the cruciform character, but evidently erected at different periods. The tower in the centre is surmounted by a fine and lofty spire. The lower part of the tower, and the great western door, are in the early Norman style of architecture. The other parts of the structure

* It is to be regretted that this building is placed in so low a situation, that, in very high floods, the church yard, and many parts of the church, are under water. This happened twice in the year 1795, and, likewise, in January 1809.

structure appear to have been chiefly built in the time of Edward III. The interior is seen with the best effect from the great western door; yet this view is greatly broken, from the lowness of the circular arches of the tower which separate the body of the church from the chancel. A desirable solemnity is effected by the general aspect; but the aisles are too irregular to admit any grandeur of architectural display.

In a groove of the stone-work which forms the lancet-shaped arch of the window on the outside of the south transept is the following inscription, in large and legible characters: *

ORASE:
PRO: ANIMABVS: PATRIS: ET: MATRIS:
IONANDIS: LEGGARE: DE BORHORD
PER QVE M: ISTA: HENESTRA:
DECORATVR:

This John Leggare, who beautified the window with painted glass, some fragments of which are still remaining, lies buried near his window, in the church, under a large tomb-stone. The brasses, which conveyed some memorials of him, have been taken away.

In the centre of another of the aisles is a magnificent marble monument, to the memory of Sir Laurence Tanfield, Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer, and Dame Elizabeth his wife. He is represented in his robes, in a recumbent posture, and his lady by his side. Over the effigies is a canopy, supported by six beautiful marble pillars. Beneath is a skeleton, representing death. Sir Laurence Tanfield died in 1625, after having presided as Chief Baron for twenty years. His epitaph informs us "that he outlived all the judges of the land who presided in the several law courts when he entered on his office."

The

* The first word of this inscription probably ought to be *orate*. The error is likely to have arisen from the inadvertence of the stone cutter.

The tables of benefactions in the church record numerous charities which have been left at various times, not only for the relief of the poor, but for many other purposes. It is unpleasing to find that these well-intended bequests have lately suffered considerably, from a want of due attention.*

On the leaden cover of the font is inscribed "Anthonye Sedley, prisoner, 1648."†

Burford has a free school, founded in 1571, and endowed with the rent of some land, and of several houses in the town, for the maintenance of a master and usher, who are to instruct the boys of the place in grammar, reading, and writing. Many persons of considerable eminence were formerly educated here; but the school is now far from in a flourishing condition, and the house has been suffered to sink into ruins, through neglect.

Here are also three almshouses for poor widows, but each is very slenderly endowed. One was founded in the year 1688 by the Earl of Warwick, for eight aged women.

This antient town is noticed by history at a very early period. It was here that, in 682, a council is said to have been held by the Kings Etheldred and Berthwald; at which Aldhelm, abbot of Malmsbury, afterwards bishop of Shirburn, being present, was commanded to write against the error of the British church in the observance of Easter.

On

* It is much to be wished that the legislature would not only require that a sufficient number of trustees be appointed, and vacancies kept regularly supplied, to guard every charity in the kingdom from dilapidation or mismanagement; but that an annual account of the distribution be publicly laid before a vestry, summoned for the purpose, and verified on oath. The account so verified might be transmitted to the Court of Quarter Sessions.

† During the civil war of the 17th century detachments of the contending armies were frequently at Burford. In the parish register are notices of the burial of several soldiers, who were slain.—In the old churchwarden's book is a memorandum that two offenders were shot in the churchyard, in 1648; but neither their names nor crimes are mentioned.

On a spot still called Battle Edge, in this parish, Cuthred, King of the West Saxons, then tributary to the Mercians, incensed by the exactions of their King, Ethelbald, hazarded an engagement with that powerful prince. He was successful, and had the glory of taking from the enemy their great standard, on which was the portraiture of a golden dragon. Dr. Plot says that, "within memory," the townspeople were accustomed annually to "make a dragon," to which they added a giant, and both were carried through the street, with much parade and jollity, on Midsummer Eve. This custom he supposes to allude to the victory obtained by Cuthred over the Mercians. No tradition respecting this yearly festivity is preserved among the natives, and it is only from Dr. Plot that we know it once existed.

The inhabitants of Burford formerly claimed the privilege of hunting, at all seasonable times, in the contiguous forest of Whichwood; but this liberty has been commuted for a largess of venison. On the afternoon of every Whitsunday the churchwardens, accompanied by many of the inhabitants, go, in a kind of procession, to Cape's Lodge Plain, within the borders of the forest, where they choose a *Lord* and a *Lady*, who are generally a boy and a girl of Burford. These titular personages formally demand of one or more of the keepers of the forest (who always attend for the purpose) "a brace of the best bucks, and a fawn, without fee or reward, with their horns and hoofs," for the use of the town of Burford, to be delivered on due notice previously given for that purpose. About the first week in August the bucks are sent for, and a venison feast is provided by the churchwardens, which is held in the town hall, and is usually attended by some hundreds of persons. The expenses of this gala are defrayed by the company; and many of the neighbouring gentry usually grace the hall with their presence.

Burford is a corporate town by charter; and, according to Brown Willis, sent a member to Parliament for one Session, but was relieved from this formerly expensive privilege, by petition.

The

The corporation consists of an alderman; steward; two bailiffs, who are elected annually; twelve burgesses, a town clerk, and a mace-bearer. They are clothed with no magisterial power, nor do they support any political consequence.

The Dissenters in this town are numerous, and are chiefly Anabaptists, Methodists, and Quakers; each of which sects has a regular meeting house. The Quakers are rapidly diminishing, in Burford and the vicinity; but the number of Methodists appears to augment daily.

The population is stated by the returns of 1811 to be 1,342; and the number of houses 245.

At Burford was born, in the year 1600, Dr. Peter Heylin, a writer of some distinction. He was educated at the free school of his native town, and afterwards studied at Oxford, where he took his degrees in arts and divinity. He was a warm defender of Archbishop Laud's arbitrary conduct as to ecclesiastical affairs, and was appointed one of the chaplains in ordinary to King Charles I. He was afterwards made a prebendary of Westminster, and obtained several valuable livings. When the Parliament gained an ascendant he was deprived of his church preferments, his estate was sequestrated, and his family consequently reduced to urgent necessity. On the Restoration he was reinstated in his livings, and was made sub-dean of Westminster. He died in 1662, and was buried in St. Peter's Church, Westminster.

Among his numerous writings the following have obtained the most permanent notice: *Microcosmus*, or a Description of the Great World. *Cosmographia*, *Ecclesia Vindicata*, or the Church of England justified. His historical tracts, also, contain much useful matter.

This town, likewise, ranks among its natives a man whose talents might have reflected credit on the place of his birth, if his wit had taken principle for its guide. We allude to Marchamont Nedham, or Needham, who was born here in 1620. At the age of

of fourteen he was placed as a chorister at All Souls' College, Oxford, where he remained till 1637, when he took the degree of B. A. He then removed to London, and became an usher in Merchant Taylors' School. Unsteady in pursuit, he afterwards found employment as an under clerk in Gray's Inn. While engaged in this capacity he commenced writer for the press. The popular side seemed to promise most emolument, and he, therefore, published a periodical satire on the court, under the title of Mercurius Britannicus. He now emerged from Gray's Inn; and, informing the public that he was duly prepared by study, he commenced the practice of the healing art. But his patients were speedily relieved from the danger of his interference; for he was imprisoned in the Gate-house, charged with aspersing the King in his *patriotical* publications. Disliking confinement, he changed political sides, and became the author of a work termed Mercurius Pragmaticus, replete with poignant satire levelled at the Presbyterians. When the factious party advanced in power, he judged it expedient to quit London; and, for some time, secreted himself in the neighbourhood of his native place; but was discovered and committed to Newgate. He then once more changed sides, and his talent for popular writing was so highly appreciated that he was released by the parliamentary leaders; and, as the price of pardon, he wrote Mercurius Politicus, a work severely hostile to the cause of the royalists. A sudden death put an end to this prostitution of talent. He expired in D'Evreux Court, Temple Bar, and was buried in the church of St. Clement's Danes.

In the parish of BRADWELL, at the distance of three miles from Burford, is *Broadwell Grove House*, the seat of William Hervey, Esq. The range of woodland from which this mansion derives a name, comprises not less than one hundred and twenty acres. In a deep recess of this sylvan district stood, till lately, an antient mansion, which was of too gloomy and retired a character to be generally pleasing. Mr. Hervey has pulled down the

the old house, and has erected an edifice in the modern Gothic style of architecture. He has, likewise, converted, with much taste and judgment, a part of the woodland into pleasure ground, and has opened a fine prospect over the Berkshire and Wiltshire hills. This estate, together with the manors of Bradwell, Filkins, and Kencscot, was the property of the Marquis of Thomond; who, in 1804, sold it to the present proprietor.

Filkins Hall, the seat of Edward Colston, Esq. is situate also in the parish of Bradwell. This gentleman is a descendant of one of the sisters of Edward Colston, Esq. formerly a merchant of Bristol, the munificent founder of many charitable institutions at Bristol, and other places. From him, his sister's family possess a considerable landed estate; in consequence of which they have assumed his name, and dropped that of Edwards. The mansion, though not elevated, commands a fine prospect. It is, likewise, ornamented by some good paintings.

The small village of BROUGHTON Poggs is one mile distant from Bradwell. In this parish the late Sir William Burnaby possessed a mansion of some consequence, which is still the property of his family, but has not been occupied for several years. One of the Broughtons was held, in the reign of Edward II. by John Mauduit, in capite from the King, by the serjeantry of mewing one of the King's goshawks, or carrying that hawk to the King's Court.

The church of BLACK BOURTON was given to Osney Abbey by *Hugh de Burton*, and Radulph Murdac, in the reign of Henry II.

In the chancel is buried "the Honourable Sir Arthur Hopton, late ambassador at the Court of Spain for Charles the First." He died in his sixty-second year, on the sixth of March, 1649.—Attached to the church is "the Hungerford Chapel;" in which are interred several of the Hungerford family,

mily, once so powerful in the county, and who possessed considerable property in this neighbourhood.

The town of BAMPTON is distant fourteen miles from Oxford, and five miles from Witney. The circumstance of bestowing a name on a hundred is no assurance of the former consequence of a place; since we find a heath, a brook, or a tree of particular character, sometimes chosen for that purpose. Bampton, however, appears to have been a town of some traffic and eminence before the Conquest; for that it paid, at the time of the Norman Survey, *fifty shillings for a market*; and, for pannage and the salterns of Wic and other customary dues of the vassals, nine pounds and thirteen shillings.* The soke of two hundreds belonged to the manor; and, in the whole, it rendered yearly fourscore pounds and forty shillings by tale.

We meet with nothing concerning this place at an early period, except that "Leofric, chaplain to King Edward the Confessor, and the first Bishop of Exeter, gave to his new church at Exeter, his land at Bampton," to which church it belongs to this day.

The manor was part of the estate of Audomare de Valence, Earl of Pembroke, who dying without issue, this manor devolved to Elizabeth, daughter of John Comyn, of Badenhagh. She married Richard Lord Talbot, who obtained of King Edward III. a charter of free warren in all his demesne lands at Bampton. On the demise of an elder brother, the manor afterwards came to John Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury, so renowned for his exploits in the reign of Henry VI. His posterity enjoyed it but a little time, for we find the estate in the families of Molins and Hungerford, in the reign of Edward IV. This king disposed of it to John Lord Wenlock, when Robert Lord Hungerford sided with the Lancastrians against him. †

The

* Trans. Domesday, p. 8.

† Mag. Brit. p. 412.

The town of Bampton now wears the tranquil appearance of a large village. It has a nominal weekly market, but very little business is transacted; nor has the place any municipal officer of a higher quality than the churchwardens, &c. common to every parish.

The church is a large and handsome building, in the form of a cross, with a tower springing from the centre, surmounted by a weighty spire. The interior has lately been adorned by a good organ, placed there by private subscription. The tithes are divided between three portionists, each of whom is presented by the church of Exeter.

Not far distant from the church are some remains of a castle, which is said to have been built by King John. These remains are now occupied as a farm-house; and, in general character, they would appear not to be older than the reign of Edward the second or third. Some ornaments were evidently bestowed on the interior in the time of Henry VII.; for, in the ceiling of the principal room now standing, are represented the red and white roses united.

Dr. Plot furnishes us with nothing memorable concerning this town, except some *Knocks* heard by the family of a Captain Wood, as certain prognostics of a death among themselves or relatives. The learned naturalist delivers this story at great length, and seems much interested by its marvellous tenour.

The river Isis is crossed, three miles to the south-west of Bampton, by *Radcot Bridge*. This structure consists of three arches, and has marks of great antiquity. In consequence of a cut which was completed in 1787, for the improvement of the navigation of the river, the stream which flows through is now deserted by traffic, but the neighbourhood possesses many pictorial beauties, and is rendered interesting by historical anecdote. It was in this vicinage that a conflict took place, in the reign of Richard II. between Robert De Vere, Earl of Oxford, and several of the nobility who envied his high favour with the Crown. The Earl was vanquished, but saved his life by

 plunging

plunging into the stream, and swimming to an obscure point of the opposite shore. *

At SHIFFORD, four miles from Bampton, on the south-east, was summoned, by King Alfred, one of the first Parliaments held in England. This curious circumstance is recorded in a MS. in the Cottonian Library, which has been thus translated:—"There sate at Shifford many thanes, many bishops, and many learned men, wise earls, and awful knights; there was Earl Elfrick, very learned in the law; and Alfred, England's herdsman, England's darling; he was King of England, he taught them that could hear him how they should live." The village in which these great personages assembled now consists only of four or five rural tenements.

Situated in an open and moorish country, at the distance of two miles from Shifford, is STANDLAKE. This manor belonged to the Greys of Rotherfield, and John Lord Grey, in the fourth of Edward III. obtained here a charter of free warren. The manor was afterwards divided into four portions. One chase was possessed by the family of Molins, in the reign of Henry VI. and the other three parts, with the advowson of the church, were procured by Thomas Lord Bradestan, whose great granddaughter Elizabeth carried them, by marriage, to Walter de la Pole.

Kennet, in his parochial antiquities, observes that the following curious custom prevails in Standlake: "The minister of the parish, in his procession within Rogation week, reads a gospel at a barrel's head, in the cellar of the Chequer Inn, in this town, where some say there was formerly a hermitage, others that there was anciently a cross at which a gospel was read in former times, over which the cellar being now built they were forced to continue the custom."

We have vainly endeavoured to investigate, in a satisfactory manner, the ground-work of this story. No such custom now prevails; nor is it known in the neighbourhood that there ever was a public house in Standlake bearing the sign of the Chequers.

* See page 52.

quers. Dr. Rawlinson, in his MS collections for Oxfordshire, says, (but without noticing the above custom,) "that there is, in the parish of Standlake, and in the road between Gloucester and London, an ancient house, called in old writings *the Hermitage*. The tenant pays 3s. 4d. per annum for it to Lincoln College, Oxon, and it was well known by *the Sign of the Checquers*." Possibly this was the house which Bishop Kennet supposed to be "in the town" of Standlake; and the following conjecture may, perhaps, account for his notion respecting the alledged custom. In open-field districts, like Standlake, there is a perambulation of the boundaries once in every thirty or forty years, which is attended by many of the parishioners, both young and old, the resident clergyman forming one of the number. When this procession arrives at certain spots, the clergyman reads sometimes a few verses of a gospel, or the epistle of the preceding Sunday, in order to imprint forcibly on the minds of the younger of his auditors the line of demarkation at which they paused. When the perambulators stop for refreshment the same ceremony is again observed; and that, perhaps, from the Barrel's Head, in order to render the act more impressive on account of singularity. Such a perambulation possibly took place a short time before this usually accurate writer visited Standlake. The procession had halted at the Checquers, on the Gloucester road, then traditionally * termed the Hermitage; and he was misled as to the period at which the ceremony of gospel reading was wont to occur.

In the neighbourhood of Standlake is an ancient building, partly moated, and retaining traces of a drawbridge. This has evidently been a mansion of some note, and is termed *Gaunt's House;* but, from the state of the neighbouring property at the

 period,

* All traditionary particulars were then more vivid than at present. The dissemination of letters, by presenting a perpetual variety to the fancy, lessens the necessity for oral information. That a fondness for tradition is rapidly declining, will be uniformly found by those who feel it incumbent to make any thing bordering on extensive local enquiries.

period, it seems unlikely that it was the residence of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster. The building is now tenanted by a farmer.

The village of BRIZE NORTON is about four miles from the town of Witney, on the south-west. This manor has been long in the family of Greenwood, (descended from one of the daughters of the great Sir Thomas More,) who have a mansion in the parish, now occupied by a farmer. Adjoining was a chapel, destroyed some few years back, in which Divine service was performed according to the Roman Catholic mode of worship.

The church is a plain but ancient fabric, and contains several memorials of the Greenwood family, together with many other monuments. But the whole interior of the building is in a lamentable state of neglect. The part termed Lord Wenman's aisle exhibits a scene of dirt and dilapidation that cannot be too severely reprehended. The earthen floor, and the lower part of the walls, are covered with a green slime; and there are several stone effigies, lying indiscriminately about the ground, disfigured with dirt, and apparently considered as common lumber. The roofing of this aisle, and that of the chancel; the pews, the reading-desk, and pulpit; all equally demand reparation. The beholder finds difficulty in believing that this is really a place appropriated to religious worship, according to the form of the Church of England! It would be easy to expatiate on the evils likely to accrue from such an irreverent neglect; but the violation of decency in the first instance is a sufficient subject for remark.

At *Caswell*, in this parish, was formerly the principal residence of a branch of the Wenman family. The mansion is now converted into a farm-house, but it will still be looked on with some interest when we remember that it was once occupied by Sir Francis Wenman, the bosom friend of the excellent and ill-fated Lord Falkland.

WITNEY

WITNEY

is eleven miles from the city of Oxford, on the north-west. This cheerful and pleasing town is watered by the river Windrush, and consists chiefly of two streets. The principal of these is about one mile in length. The domestic buildings are uniformly of a respectable character, and many are both handsome and spacious. The whole derive a grateful air of cleanliness and prosperity from a custom which prevails of colouring the fronts with a light and pleasing yellow. As the High Street draws towards the south, it progressively expands, and, in the broad area, is preserved an extent of green sward, through which is formed a wide and handsome gravel walk, leading to the church. Few towns containing so many inhabitants, and possessing such a satisfactory competence of substantial buildings, maintain so quiet and rural a character of aspect. The church occupies the complete termination of the street, and forms a fine architectural finish to the general view.

Witney has long been celebrated for the manufactory of blankets. Dr. Plot asserts, that, at the time of his writing, the weaving business employed not less than 3000 persons, "from children of eight years, to decrepit old age." This number appears considerable; but we may believe that it is not exaggerated when we remember that every branch of the manufactory was then cultivated by manual labour. In the seventeenth century the blankets made at Witney bore an ascendant in the market, and were of universal request. In the latter part of the eighteenth century the trade experienced a great defalcation. "When I was here," says Mr. Arthur Young, (dating from 1807,) "thirty-nine years ago, there were above 500 weavers in the place; but it sank gradually to about half that number, and even lower; and very great distress consequently ensued; but, fortunately for the inhabitants, the spinning jennies were introduced, with other machinery, especially the spring looms, by

which one man does the work of two. As much wool (skin, not fleece wool,) is wrought here as there was forty years ago, which was then estimated at 7000 packs; and trade is increasing. Machinery at present earns 4000l. a year, and the place I was assured is flourishing. But, in respect to the state of the working hands, the medal must be reversed; for the former state of the manufacture having nursed up a great population, the effect of the introduction of machinery, gave, with such a population, the power of keeping down wages in such a manner as to deprive the poor of any share in, or at least leaving them a very small one in, that prosperity which has pervaded the kingdom, and so greatly raised the general wages of labour. In 1768, I found that ten or twelve shillings a week were the earnings of the weavers, and they are now but twelve shillings, with the employment of less than half the number that were here in the former period. In 1768 blankets were made to 3l. a pair; they are now made up to 5l. a pair."

The manufactories in the north possess many local advantages, which enable them to prove powerful rivals to the trade of Witney; but, at present, the town is full of business. The protracted war, which injures so many descriptions of manufacture, furnishes the weavers with employment. Blankets are necessarily wanted in great numbers for the use of the various armaments sent on foreign expeditions; and Witney has its full share of government orders. The masters at any rate appear to prosper; but the state of the poor-rates proves that the labouring part of the population is far from being in a desirable condition. Perhaps 1000 persons, comprising men, women, and children, may now be employed in the different branches.

The staple, or blanket, hall, is situate on the east side of the High Street, and is a building calculated to adorn the place. About the centre of the same street is the town hall, a handsome modern building of stone, with a piazza beneath, intended for a market-place. Nearly adjoining, is a more humble building, termed the market cross, which was erected by William

William Blake, Esq. of Coggs, in the year 1683, and was repaired, by a subscription among the towns people, in 1811.

A free school was founded here by Mr. Henry Box, in 1660. The building is respectable, and consists of a dwelling for the master, and a spacious school room, with an annexed library. A charity school was, likewise, founded in the year 1732. The boys receive education, clothing, and five pounds as an apprentice fee. From a meeting held lately at the Blanket Hall, it seems likely that the system of gratuitous education will soon be judiciously extended. At this meeting it was resolved, "that a society be now formed, entitled The Society for promoting the instruction of the poor in the town and neighbourhood of Witney, according to the general plan of the National Society." Among other resolutions connected with this salutary purpose were the following:---That, considering the peculiar circumstances of the population of this town and neighbourhood, the schools now instituted shall be open on Sundays, as well as other days, to poor children of all sects and denominations.---That the children of churchmen shall regularly attend Divine service in the parish church; and those of Dissenters, either at the parish church, or some other legally authorised place of public worship." Lord Francis Spencer presided at this very laudable meeting.

Witney church is a large and handsome building of the cruciform description. From the square tower in the centre rises a spire of substantial rather than airy proportions. At each angle of the tower is an octangular minaret; and four faces of the steeple are ornamented with a pointed piece of masonry, divided by mullions of stone into four compartments. The workmanship of this pile is generally of an estimable character, and several fine Gothic windows are to be seen in different parts. The north entrance is by a descent of several steps, through a round-headed doorway; over which is a vacant canopied niche, and many niches of a similar description occur in various divisions of the northern front. Small grotesque figures (the dis-

eased exuberance of Gothic fancy) are placed on several of the lower portions of the structure. The east end was not completed according to the architect's design. In general feature it is lower than the other parts; and this circumstance detracts from the effect of the whole. Yet the building is still a fine and attractive object, though the site is too flat to admit of much commanding grandeur of display.

In the very spacious and handsome chancel is the ancient Piscina, together with some remains of the stone recesses used by the priest and deacons, during the performance of mass. In the same part of the church is the burial-place of the Freind family; and a well-preserved brass, bearing the effigies of a man, standing with his hands folded, but not uplifted. The inscription shews that this is the memorial of Richard Ayshcome, of Lyford, in the county of Berks, who died in 1606.

In a recess at the end of the north transept are two recumbent effigies in stone, without inscription, and much defaced by age. Not far distant is a mural tablet to the memory of Henry Box, who founded the free school.

At the north west corner of the church is a spacious recess, formed as a burial-place for the Wenman family. On the outside of this building are two niches, now vacant; and in the interior is a place for holy water, over which is a shelf or bracket. The first of the Wenman family buried in this chapel, whose inscription remains, was Sir Francis Wenman, Knt. who married Anne, the daughter of Sir Samuel Sandys, and who died in 1640. This is the Sir Francis before noticed at Caswell. He represented the county of Oxford at the time of his decease. Samuel, his eldest son, was killed near Plymouth, in the year 1456; and Anne, his daughter, married into the Fettiplace family.

The wooden roof of the chapel is painted with bad imitations of clouds in red, white, and blue, among which are plentifully interspersed gilded stars. This burial-place is preserved by the present representatives of the family in an exemplary state of repair.

The

The pewing of the church is modern, and very handsome. The rows of pews in the transepts are double, and are made to ascend progressively, for about twelve steps. This appears a practice worthy of notice. By such an arrangement of the seats, a view is obtained of the pulpit from the most remote parts of the building. A temperate use of action must certainly be deemed desirable in church-oratory. A moral and religious sentence appeals to the auditor with double weight, if enforced by the look and persuasive attitude of the preacher. But these grand auxiliaries of argument are lost in churches pewed according to the ancient manner. It is much to be wished that clergymen of the established church would cultivate an animated mode of delivery; and then we cannot prescribe to their parishioners a better model for the disposal of a congregation than that to be seen at Witney. The whole furniture of this church is, indeed, decorous and pleasing. Over a gallery at the west is placed a good organ.

Adjoining the church-yard on the west, is an excellent stone parsonage house, built by Dr. Freind; and, on the east, is a range of alms-houses, erected and endowed "for the maintenance of six poor widows of blanket-makers, by John Holloway, clothier, who died 1724."

There are Dissenting meeting-houses for Quakers, Presbyterians, and Methodists.

The population of this town, as specified by the returns to Parliament in 1811, is 2,722; and the number of houses is stated by the same returns to be 543.

Witney was one of the eight manors given in 1040, by Alwin, Bishop of Winchester, to his church, in consequence of the accusation brought against him of indulging in habits of suspicious intimacy with the mother of Edward the Confessor. The queen mother cleared herself by undergoing the fiery ordeal. This, probably, was an experiment of little danger. The bishop reconciled himself to the clergy by the gift of eight manors; and he could spare them all. In the year 1171, Bishop Blois be-

stowed the manor of Witney on his new foundation at St. Cross. The town experienced considerable benefit from the patronage of Audomare de Valence, Earl of Pembroke, who had the fee of Bampton Hundred. In the 5th of Edward II. it was made a free borough, and continued to send members to Parliament till the 33rd of Edward III. in which year the privilege was declined.

In the reign of Edward II. we find that solemn jousts were performed here, between Humphrey Bohun, Earl of Hereford, on the one side, and Aymer, or Audomare, de Valence, Earl of Pembroke, on the other.

In the seventeenth century an accident occurred at Witney, which was disastrous in itself, and is especially memorable from the publicity it gained through puritanical misrepresentation. The young and the gay of the town assembled, in innocent merriment, to witness the performance of a dramatic piece. The flooring gave way, and several lives were lost in the general downfal. Instead of sympathy the sufferers met with execration. One John Rowe, of the University of Oxford, and "Lecturer in the towne of Witney," published an account of the occurrence, intituled "Tragi-comædia; being a brief relation of the strange and wonderful hand of God discovered at Witney, in the Comedy acted there, February 3, where there were some slaine, many hurt, with severall other remarkable passages: together with what was preached in three sermons on that occasion, from Rom. i. 18. both which may serve as some check to the growing Atheisme of the present age. Oxf. 1652." The age must indeed be far gone in enthusiasm, which could be influenced by such imbecile ravings as those of Mr. Rowe; yet we are told that this publication contributed not a little to the suppression of plays at the period. We learn from the pamphlet that the piece performed was "Mucedorus, the king's sonne of Valentia, and Amadine, the king's daughter of Arragon; with the merry conceits of Mouse, &c." The actors were countrymen, and nearly all from Stanton Harcourt. They acted for pecuniary

pecuniary reward, and had performed their comedy in several adjacent places.* Denied the use of the townhall, they fixed on the White Hart, a principal inn at Witney. At seven o'clock in the evening the drum beat and the trumpet sounded, to announce that all was ready. Men, women, and children, to the number of three hundred, attended the summons. The theatre of the night was a large apartment, which had been used as a malting-room, "having a part of it covered with earth to that purpose." The play had proceeded for about an hour and a half when a beam gave way, and the flooring sank. The fall was not quick, and the whole went into a room, "where there was a shuffle-board, which was broke to pieces." All for a few dreadful moments was silence. At length such cries and groans arose as furnished the declaimer with several very pertinent allusions in his three sermons from Rom. i. 18; and it was found that five were "slaine outright." The whole of the persons killed on the spot were children; a woman had her leg broken, and underwent amputation. Though these were "awful warnings," the sufferers were still few in number; but Mr. Rowe closes the account by informing us "that sixty persons are said to have been much bruised."

In the year 1734, Witney suffered from conflagration. A fire broke out at the dwelling of a tallow chandler; and, in less than three hours, thirty houses were entirely destroyed.

Four miles to the north-west of Witney is ASTALL. This manor is written Esthale in the Norman Survey, and then belonged to Roger de Ivri, who held it of the king. In the parish is an old manorial mansion, now used as a farm-house, which was formerly the residence of Sir Richard Jones, one of the judges of the Court of Common Pleas in the reign of Charles I. and afterwards was

* The practice of bands of countrymen travelling through neighbouring districts for the performance of dramatic pieces thus appears to have ceased only at the latter part of the seventeenth century. This was a relic of the Catholic ages, in which similar associations were formed for the representation of mysteries at holy festivals.

was the seat of Lord Viscount Lumley, who married the only daughter of Sir Richard Jones. Lord Lumley sold the manor, and a great part of the annexed estate, to Sir Edmund Fettiplace, in 1688. By the marriage of a sister of the late Richard G. Fettiplace, Esq. the manor passed to the Gywnne family, of whom it has recently been purchased by Lord Redesdale.

In the north aisle of the church of Astall stands a large stone coffin, said to contain the remains of Alice Corbett, * concubine to Henry I. The lid was partly opened a few years ago, and a piece of silk ribbon was taken out. The farther contents of the coffin were not examined.

In this part of the county are three parishes completely isolated. Of these the churches of Langford and Shilton are deemed to be in Oxfordshire, as far as regards ecclesiastical government; but, in all civil matters, the parishes are considered to form a part of Berks. We are not aware of any better reason for such a capricious distribution of locality than that which is most obvious:—The parishes in question were a part of the possessions of some man of official influence in Berkshire, previous to the Conquest; and he caused them to be considered a portion of the county in which his chief property lay, in order to have them under his immediate jurisdiction.

Among the most rare *Plants* found in this district are *Cratægus oxyacantha* (bac. alb.) white thorn, or hawthorn with a white berry; in a hedge near Bampton.

Thlaspi alpestre. Perfoliate bastard cress; among the stone pits between Witney and Burford.

THE HUNDRED OF CHADLINGTON

is divided from that of Bampton by the river Windrush, and is bounded by Gloucestershire on the west, while it approaches the county of Warwick on the north. A considerable portion of this hundred,

* The daughter of Sir Robert Corbett, of Warwickshire. Henry had by her a son named Reginald, created Earl of Cornwall.

hundred, on the south-east, is engrossed by the forest of Whichwood. The remaining tracts are chiefly barren of wood, and are of the character of soil denominated stonebrash. The money raised for the poor, &c. in the year ending Easter, 1803, amounted to 11,391l. 6s. 1½d. making an average of 4s. 10d. in the pound.

Chadlington hundred contains one market town, CHIPPING NORTON; and the following parishes, hamlets, and tythings:

Ascot; Bruerne (extra parochial); *Chadlington East; Chadlington West; Chastleton; Chilson, Pudlicott,* and *Shorthampton; Churchill; Cornwell; Church-Enstone; Fifield; Fulbrook; Idbury; Kiddington* (over); *Kingham; Langley; Leafield; Lyneham; Milton; Minster Lovel; North-moor; Hookington,* with Southrope; *Over Norton; Ramsden; Great Rollwright; Little Rollwright; Salford; Sarsden; Shipton under Whichwood; Spelsbury,* with Dean; *Swerford; Swinbrook; Taynton; Walcot.*

CHIPPING NORTON

is eighteen miles from the city of Oxford, on the North-west. The name of the town proves its former mercantile consequence.* Several Roman coins have been found in the neighbourhood; but, as no other indications of the residence of the Romans have been discovered, we are at liberty to suppose that the pieces were merely left in the soil by casualties among the Saxons, or natives, who accepted Roman money in their trading, for many ages after the last legion quitted Britain.

Mr. Gough, in his additions to Camden, says that the town of Chipping Norton was formerly called *Cold Norton.* This assertion is assuredly erroneous. The manor termed Cold Norton joins that of Chipping Norton on the east and north-east. On this manor formerly

* This was certainly, says Plot, "a town of note in the Saxon days, as one may gather from its name; it being so called from ceapan, *emere,* to buy or cheapen; so that it implies as much as Market Norton, or Norton where the people usually cheapened wares."

formerly stood a priory: and Mr. Gough's mistake probably arose from his not recollecting, while he wrote, that there were two monastic foundations in this neighbourhood: one on the manor above mentioned, and one in the town of Chippingnorton.

William Fitzalan of Clun was Lord of the manor of Chippingnorton in the sixth of King John; and in the record his manorial possession loses its Saxon addition *Chipping*, but no word is placed as a substitute. His heir was John Fitzalan, his brother, who, in the 38th of Henry III. obtained a charter of free warren in all his demesne lands here. This family afterwards attained the earldom of Arundel; but the manor of Chippingnorton formed part of the estate of the Earl of Oxford, in the time of Henry VI. When John, Earl of Oxford, the firm Lancastrian, was consigned to the scaffold, King Edward IV. seized on his extensive property, and gave this manor to his own brother, Richard, Duke of Gloucester.

The town of Chippingnorton is built on the side of a considerable eminence. From this circumstance of site it is exposed to the winds which sweep over Warwickshire from some of the bleakest points of the compass; but the counter-balancing advantages are equally obvious and pleasing. The bracing air produces health; the shelving position enforces local cleanliness; and the height of foundation ensures a command of distant and diversified scenery. The houses are chiefly composed of stone; and, though far from regular, are, in many instances, substantial, and of an ornamental character. Many new buildings occur, and the whole town wears the face of quiet business and moderate prosperity. It may be observed, that the character of the domestic architecture improves as the hill is ascended. The more ancient part of the town couches, for security from the north, among the recesses of a glen formed by various intersecting hills; and the buildings are as humble as the situation. Above this is a narrow and ill-shaped thoroughfare, the gloomy memorial of the state of English provincial towns in the early part of the seventeenth century. The wide and handsome street which

surmounts both these divisions is the work of comparatively modern industry, and furnishes a pleasing proof of the enlargement of idea, which is the result of an increased facility of commercial speculation.

In the deep retirement of the valley is placed the parish church, a venerable Gothic pile with an embattled tower on the west. The interior is divided into a nave, chancel, and two aisles. The nave is 48 feet high, and has a roofing of oak rudely carved, and painted, with numerous interspersed stars and other embellishments. This part of the building is much more lofty than the side aisles, and has ranges of lights in the upper compartments, to the whole of its length. The nave and chancel are now separated by a wooden screen, on which is written an account of various benefactions; but remains of the antient rood loft, which once occupied this situation, are still visible; and on each side is a pedestal, surmounted by a canopy. The canopies are of dissimilar workmanship, and the figures which they were intended to decorate and protect have been long since removed. Between the divisions once ornamented with statues is a spacious window, of light and tasteful Gothic masonry. In the pillar which supported the rood-loft on the north, is worked a flight of stone steps, the summit of which is level with the top of the present screen. A part of the church-service was, undoubtedly, performed by the Roman Catholic Ecclesiastics in the rood-loft. Here, probably, the deacon read the Gospel, attended by the subdeacon holding the book, and two clerks bearing candles. The use of the stone stair-case so often found contiguous to the remains of the loft in old churches, thus admits of an easy explanation.

An altar tomb, in a recess to the north of the chancel, supports the effigies of Richard Croft, Esq. who died October 3d, 1502; and Agnes his wife, who died in 1509.* The monument and

* The Croft family were of Sutton under Brailes, in Gloucestershire, at which place they remained in 1683. Leland says "the Croftes were once Lords

and effigies are of alabaster. The sides are laboriously, but not delicately, worked, and the family arms are introduced between two angels. The husband is represented in armour, a sword on the left side and a dagger on the right; his feet resting on a lion, and his head on a piece of mail. He is without a helmet, and the hair is full and bushy. The wife is in long robes, with tassels pendant from the neck and waist. Her head reposes on a cushion. Both the figures are rudely sculptured for the period. This monument is inclosed by pews, and has no inscription; but two tablets on the adjoining wall state that it has been twice piously repaired by the descendants of the persons whose memory it was intended to preserve. The last reparation was effected in 1783, at the expense of Richard Croft, of Warwick.

There are many antient brasses and effigies in various parts of the church, but the greater number are obscured, or wholly defaced, by the pewing.

Adjoining the north aisle is a recent building, intended as a burial place for the family of Dawkins. On the wall over the entrance is a spacious range of marble tables, each about three feet six inches square. Over the whole are the arms of the family in a plain oval frame.

The furniture of this church is of a more homely character than becomes the parochial place of worship in a town so flourishing. At the west end is a miserable gallery, composed of deal boards, painted blue. The ceiling of the nave evidently demands reparation. A new font has lately been erected. It is very small, and possesses no pretensions to beauty.* In a neglected

Lords of Chipping Norton; since that the Rodneys, and then the Comptons, who bought it." When the priory of Cold Norton escheated to the crown, in the reign of Henry VII. Hugh Croft, Esq. possessed a claim to that property, which he made over to the King.

* The present age seems to look with an illaudable indifference on all particulars connected with church adornment. We have not met with more than

lested corner of the building lies the antient font, covered with dirt, and exposed to contumely. This is of an octangular form, and each face is ornamented with the representation of a Gothic niche.

To the north of the church stood the Castle of Chipping Norton. The period at which this structure was raised is not accurately known; but the foundation is usually attributed to the reign of Stephen. It is certain that many castellated edifices were constructed in that reign; and this was, perhaps, one of the strong holds which Stephen caused to be reduced shortly after they were erected, through a suspicion of his barons, since we meet with no historical events connected with the building. The structure occupied an extensive plot of ground, and the elevated site of the keep is still apparent. No fragment of the building now remains above the surface, but a part of the foundation has been occasionally traced. The water which supplied the fosse is now suffered to escape by numerous petty channels, and it ripples through a cart-way formed along the base, with imbecile shallowness.

In one of the narrow apertures which lead from the church through the relics of the more antient part of the town, is a free school, founded by Edward VI. and endowed with six pounds a year, payable out of the salt office. This is one of the humblest of the sixth Edward's scholastic foundations, and may safely be thought to prove that the town possessed no great consequence at the period of his bounty; for it may be observed that his institutions usually keep pace with the population and importance of the places honoured with his favour.

Near King Edward's free school is a range of almshouses, comprising eight tenements for as many poor widows, founded by Mr. Henry Cornish, a native of this town, in 1640. Some additions have been made to the original endowment, which was but

than one modern font in Oxfordshire, that is not calculated to impress posterity with an unfavourable opinion of the taste of the era in which it was constructed.

small, and the alms people are now supported in decency and comfort.

A school has been lately instituted for about forty girls, who are partly clothed. The expenses are defrayed by a subscription among the ladies of the place.

At Chipping Norton was a monastic foundation, mentioned by Speed without any reference either to dedication, founder, or benefactors. It was valued at 7l. 14s.* per ann. Some remains of this building are still to be seen near the entrance of the town on the Woodstock side. These chiefly consist of a fragment of wall, three feet in thickness; a pointed doorway, with many receding bands of moulding; and a small window. The whole is worked into the front of some tenements of a humble order.

Under the shop of a house in the High Street, now occupied by a dealer in China, are the well preserved remains of a building which appears to have been used as a chapel. This room is not large, and is nearly square. In the front, on a level with the floor, is a doorway, which has undergone too many alterations to allow of any reference to its original architectural character. On each side of the door is a small Gothic window, divided by a broad stone mullion into two lights. The ceiling is of groined stone, and in the wall are two small recesses. The house to which this curious cellar appertains is on the more elevated side of the High Street. The road was evidently raised, when the houses on that side were built, and the flooring of the cellar is about level with the basement of the doorway mentioned before as having formed a part of the religious house in this town. There seems, therefore, a fair warranty for supposing that this was a chapel, or oratory, attached to the monastic structure. The distance between the two remains is not more than one hundred yards.

Chipping Norton sent burgesses to Parliament in the 30th of Edward I. and in the 32d and 33d of Edward III. but has not possessed that privilege in any subsequent session.

This

* Stated by mistake in Mag. Brit. at 3l. 16s. 6d.

This town is not eminent for any manufacture, though a coarse kind of woollen cloth, used for waggon-tilts, &c. is made with some success.

The corporation consists of two bailiffs, twelve burgesses, a town clerk, &c. These civil officers have entire jurisdiction within the town precincts, and formerly had power to imprison in cases of debt from 40s. to four pounds, inclusively.

The town enjoys about two hundred acres of common land, which were given by one of the Fitzalans, Earls of Arundel. The common lands of the manor were enclosed in the year 1769, but the gift of the Earl of Arundel was excepted, and a portion of the benefit is now allotted to every house that was erected before the enclosure took place.

William Fitzalan of Clun obtained from King John a charter for a yearly fair; and there are now seven fairs held annually in the town for the sale of cattle, &c. The weekly market is well attended, and two of the market days, the last Wednesday in March, and the last Wednesday in September, approach, in extent of business, to the character of fairs. Large quantities of cheese are then brought for sale. Corn is sold by sample in this market.

The greater number of the inhabitants attend the established church; but there are meeting houses for Quakers, Methodists, and Baptists. The population, according to the returns to Parliament in 1811, is 1,975; and the number of houses 392.

Over, or Upper Norton, is a hamlet pleasingly situated on an elevation, and ornamented by the neat residence and extensive grounds of Mr. Dawkins. This hamlet has separate parochial rates, but owns Chipping Norton as the mother-church.

On the manor of Cold Norton was a priory of canons regular of St. Augustine, founded by William Fitzalan, who died about the 19th of Henry II. and dedicated to St. John the Evangelist. The founder possessed a manor house at Cold Norton, which he gave to the prior and canons, or rather, in

his own words, to God, St. Mary, St. John, and St. Giles. Reginald, Earl of Bologne, was a large benefactor; and the different gifts were confirmed by King Henry III. Among subsequent benefactors was Ralph, Earl of Stafford, who, in the 44th of Edward III. bestowed his manor of *Rowlandright*, (Rollwright,) in this county. In the eleventh of Henry VII. as it appears from an inquisition taken at Dorchester, John Wetton, prior of Cold Norton, died without having any convent of canons; or any professed canon in his priory, at the time of his decease. The succession of the priory, therefore, finished, and the estate escheated to the king. At this time the revenue was stated at 50l. per annum. Bishop Smith afterwards bought it of the crown, and gave it to Brasennose College, Oxford. No vestige of the building can now be traced; but a farm and a mill still bear the name of *Priory*.

Chapel House is the name given to an inn near the seventy-third mile-stone on the Birmingham Road. Here, according to Gough, was an antient chapel used by Pilgrims. In digging to enlarge the house several stone coffins have been discovered, in one of which were found, among the bones, a number of beads, and a crucifix of silver. "Three urns, in a small vault like an oven,"* have also been found, and fragments of masonry and painted glass.

Rollrich, or Rowlbrich, Stones, the most curious memorial of antiquity to be seen in this county, are about three miles distant from Chipping Norton, on the north west. They are situate on an eminence which commands extensive views over long and interesting ranges of hills, on every side except that towards *Long Compton*, which village, with its attendant phalanx of tall and far-spread elevations, is hidden from the eye by a trivial but abrupt brow of land. When the chief of the surrounding scenery consisted of intermingled heath and wood, the situation must have been impressively solemn and mysterious. The busy hands of an increased population have now denuded most

* Gough.

nent of the elevations, and have softened the monotonous gloom of each wide expanse of heath; yet still the monument stands in solitary grandeur, amid scenes so profound, and immeasurable to the eye, that they inspire a species of melancholy feeling, even while enriched by the verdure of cultivation.

Rollrich Stones form a ring which is not completely circular. The diameter from north to south is about 35 yards, and from east to west about 33. The original number of stones appears to have been 60. But every age has assisted in the work of mutilation and removal. There are now only twenty-four that rise more than one foot above the level of the earth. These are of different degrees of elevation. Not any are more than five feet from the ground, except one, precisely at the north point, which is seven feet four inches high, and of an unequal but considerable breadth. The thickness of the remainder is usually not more than 13 or 14 inches.

At the distance of 84 yards north east from the Circle stands what is termed the *King Stone*. This is about nine feet in height. On the east are the remains of the *Five Knights*. These are believed by Dr. Stukely to have formed a *Kistvaen*. The whole of the stones appear to have been taken from a contiguous quarry, and to have been placed in their present situation in a rude and unornamented state. Those in the ring were apparently pitched so close together, that Mr. Gale supposes they were intended to form a compact wall. The entrance seems to have been on the north east, in a line with the stone denominated the king. There are no marks of a surrounding trench, nor any of an avenue of approach, as at Stonehenge and Abury. Dr. Stukely mentions several barrows in the close vicinity; but he appears to have bestowed this appellation on a long and uneven bank, which was probably formed by the rubbish removed from the quarry that produced the stones. In the 17th century Ralph Sheldon, Esq. caused the area of the circle to be dug to a considerable depth; but no indications of sepulture, or hints con-

cerning the founder of this curious monument, were discovered.

From our statement of the dimensions of Rollrich it will be seen that this antient erection is trivial, if compared with the stupendous relics in Wiltshire; yet Bede does not scruple to reckon it the second wonder of this kingdom. All monuments reared by hands, which had mouldered into dust before the Chronicles commenced, afford a fertile subject to writers fond of hypothesis; and where is the antiquary devoid of such a partiality? Rollrich, accordingly, has given rise to a variety of conjectures. The populace, as usual, settle the question in a very succinct manner. With these traditionary historians, the whole assemblage is a kind of petrified court. The person now converted into the King Stone would have been King of England if he could but have perceived Long Compton, which village can be clearly seen at the distance of six yards from his base. The stones which composed Dr. Stukely's Kistvaen were five knights, attendant on the majesty of the larger and solitary fragment. The rest were common soldiers. We are chiefly induced to mention this popular fancy, from the circumstance of it appearing to blend, in a remote degree, with a system of conjecture formed by Dr. Plot.

Camden was the first writer who treated Rollrich with serious attention, and he was inclined to believe it a memorial of some victory, and thought that it possibly was erected by Rollo the Dane. "At the time," says Camden, "that Rollo ravaged England with his Danes and Normans, we find the Danes engaged the Saxons hard by, at Hokenorton, and afterwards again at *Scierstane* in *Huiccia*, which I should suppose to be the adjoining boundary stone of the four counties." *

In regard to this opinion Bishop Gibson observes "that the Saxon annals tell us it was in 876 that Rollo made inroads into Normandy, and that was after he had been in England; whereas the battle of Hokenorton was in 917, and that of *Scearstan* a hundred years after."

Dr.

* The Four Shire Stone is six miles from Shippingnorton on the north-west.

Dr. Plot is willing to allow that the monument might be erected by Rollo, not about the time of Edward the Elder, but when, as is asserted by Walsingham, he was called to the aid of King Athelstan against some potent rebels,* "whom having vanquished and reduced into obedience to their Prince, and perhaps too slain the designed king of them (who, possibly, might be persuaded to this rebellion upon a conditional prophecy of coming to that honour when he should see Long Compton,) might erect this monument in memory of the fact, the great single stone for the intended king, the five stones by themselves for his principal captains," &c.

After having indulged in this vein of extravagant conjecture, Plot proceeds to say, that, though the stones might have been erected as a trophy, or triumphal pile, they might also serve at the same time for the election and inauguration of a king. In this he follows Dr. Charleton; who, in his "Stonehenge restored to the Danes," has shewn, on the authority of *Wormius*, that the northern tribes were accustomed to hold certain courts of Parliament, in which kings were solemnly elected, which are surrounded with great stones, for the most part twelve in number, and one other stone, exceeding the rest in eminency, set in the middle, upon which they seated the new elected king, by the general suffrage of the assembly. To this hypothesis Dr. Plot readily perceived two objections to arise:—the King Stone at Rollrich is not in the centre of the circle, and the succeeding kings of the Danish race are known to have been inaugurated at other places. These difficulties he endeavours to surmount by proving that the King Stone was sometimes placed on an elevated spot *without* the circle; and by remarking that succeeding kings, less boisterous in manners, and more politic in design,

 might

* Gibson observes that the testimony of Walsingham is of no avail, unless we can suppose that Rollo was of an age to plunder England in the year 875; to make incursions into Normandy in 876; and the same Rollo live to assist King Athelstan, who came not to the crown till the year 925.

might choose to concede, in the ceremony of coronation, to the more civilized notions of the people over whom they were called to preside.

Dr. Stukely, as it may be expected, disregards the opinions of Camden and Plot, and supposes Rollrich to be druidical. According to this writer the name signifies *Rholdrwyg*, the wheel or circle of the Druids; or, in the old Irish, *Reilig*, the church of the Druids. We have fair reason to believe that Stukely is correct as to general outline of conjecture. There is not any emblem of triumph connected with the monument, to persuade us that it was intended as a memorial of victory; nor any barrow to allow of our supposing that it was erected in honour of the dead. It seems evident that Rollo the Dane had not any particular connection with this district; and the presumed affinity of name* appears the strongest argument adduced by those who would believe the cirque to be intended as a place of coronation, rather than as a religious temple.

Rollrich Stones impart a name to two small villages, which are called in some records *Rollendrich*, and are styled in Domesday *Rollendri*. They are now written *Great* and *Little Rollwright*. According to a record in the Exchequer, one of these places was held by Turstin le Dispenser, by serjeantry of being the King's steward.

HOOKNORTON, or HOKENORTON,† was the head of the barony of D'Oiley, and was afterwards held by Ela, or Ida, Countess of Warwick, by the serjeantry of "carving before the King.

* "*Reich*, or *Rite*, signifies a kingdom, and sometimes a king; whence it is plain that these stones seem still to be called the Stones of King Rollo, or perhaps rather of Rollo's kingdom." Plot, 341.

† "This place," says Camden, "became, in the last age, a proverb that a boorish or *hoggish* person was born there." The proverb is said by Grose, in his provincial Glossary, to allude to Hog's, or Hogh, Norton, in Leicestershire. *Hogh* Norton is in English *High* Norton; and from a corruption of the word Hogh, or High, to Hoge, arose the saying.

King, and to have the knife with which she carved."* This spot is memorable for a sanguinary battle between the Danes and Saxons, which is said by the Saxon annals to have been fought in 917; by Huntingdon and Brompton in 911; and by Florence of Worcester, (who terms Hooknorton, *Villa Regia*,) in 914. In this parish is a barrow, which was probably formed by the Saxons on the occasion of the above engagement.

At CHASTLETON John Jones, Esq. has a venerable seat, with a square embattled tower at each angle. His estate is finely stocked with antient timber, oak, elm, and ash, each branch of which is scrupulously preserved. On the ground belonging to Mr. Jones is a large circular barrow, supposed by Plot to have been cast up by the Danes about the year 1016, "at which time Edmund Ironside met Canutus, the Danish king, hereabouts, and defeated him at a place called *Sceorstan*." But this opinion is probably erroneous. The old Shirestone, near which the battle was fought, is believed to have been in Wiltshire.

The contiguous parish of CORNWELL is ornamented by the handsome stone mansion of Francis Penystone, Esq.

BRUERNE, near the western edge of the county, had a Cistertian monastery, founded by Nicholas Basset in the year 1147. This was valued at the Dissolution, according to Dugdale, at 134l. 10s. 10d. per ann.; and was granted to Sir Antony Cope. The Cope family built here a mansion, which was some few years back accidentally burned to the ground, being then the property of the late Sir Jonathan Cope. The estate is now possessed by the Duke of Dorset. The whole of Bruerne is extra-parochial.

At LYNEHAM, to the east of Bruerne, is a large circular barrow, which, from the mode of construction, would appear to be Danish. An enclosure of this hamlet took place in 1788, and the plough has now passed over the interior of the circle: the banks are covered with green-sward.

Between

* Blount's Tenures.

Between Chadlington and Saresden there is, says Warton, in his account of Kiddington, "an unmentioned camp, either Saxon or Danish. The Vallum is steep, and composed of heaps of rubble stone, cemented and coated with turf." We could not gain any local intelligence concerning this curious vestige.

SWINBROOK is a small parish in the neighbourhood of Burford, and adjoining the forest of Whichwood. Here was a mansion, now in ruins, in which the family of the Fettiplaces resided for at least four centuries. Charles Fettiplace, Esq. of South Laws Lodge, in the forest of Whichwood, the last of that family in the male line, died in 1805, and was succeeded in his large estates by his sister's son, who took the name of Fettiplace. This gentleman died in 1806, and willed his extensive property in equal portions to his five sisters. The Swinbrook part has been lately sold, and is now possessed by Lord Redesdale.* In the church, which is a small but neat building, are many antient monuments of the Fettiplaces; and numerous charities, for the benefit of the villagers and neighbourhood, act as grateful memorials of this affluent family. Among these is a free school, founded in 1716, for the instruction of the boys of this parish and those of Widford. There is, likewise, an estate of about 16l. per ann. given to apprentice poor children; and another of about 10l. per ann. for the benefit of lying-in women. Thirteen pounds a year are bestowed in bread; and seven green coats are annually distributed to as many poor men, together with a considerable quantity of linen. It is pleasing to observe that all these charities are

* Here is a park of about 100 acres, adjoining to which is a beech grove which covers seven acres of ground. The grove occupies a high situation, and is a well known object from the Marlborough Downs in Wiltshire, and from Stoken Church Hill in the upper part of this county. It was planted by Sir Edmund Fettiplace, Bart. about the year 1690, and not a single tree was cut down till within the last six years, when several of 80 feet in length were felled. The trees were originally planted much too close to each other; owing to which circumstance the general growth is slender and weak, though very lofty.

are carefully distributed. In the year 1743, Sir George Fettiplace, by a donation to Christ's Hospital, obtained the privilege of sending thither two poor boys, for ever, from this parish. Each boy, on leaving the school, has fifteen pounds presented to him as an apprentice fee.

The parish of MINSTER LOVEL lies near the great road between Burford and Witney, and is distant three miles from the latter place. This parish was termed only Minster till the reign of Henry IV. when it began to assume its additional appellation from the noble family of Lovel, in whom the property was vested till the early part of the reign of Henry VII. That monarch seized the estate of Francis, Lord Lovel, and bestowed this manor on Jasper, Duke of Bedford. Some fragments of the antient castellated mansion are still remaining. These chiefly consist of the walls of the great hall, and part of two of the towers. Concerning this dilapidated baronial edifice, and the fate of the last of the Lovels who occupied it, a strange story prevails, which we have endeavoured carefully to investigate.

Francis, Lord Viscount Lovel, was Lord Chamberlain to King Richard III. Obdurate in his aversion from the House of Lancaster, he joined with the impostor Lambert Simnel, and was one of the chief confederates at the battle of Stoke, near Newark. This desperate battle was fought on the 16th of June, 1487; and the Earl of Lincoln, Sir Thomas Broughton, and most of the leaders on the rebellious side, are known to have perished on the field. The fate of Lord Lovel is not so clearly ascertained. Some writers affirm that he was slain; others say that he endeavoured to escape from the fight, and was seen in the act of trying to swim his horse over the River Trent. There these historians leave him; but some modern authors have been anxious to continue the narrative. Gough, in his additions to Camden, article Nottinghamshire, page 401, has the following passage: "There was a strong rumour that he, for the present, preserved his life by retiring to some secret place, where he was starved to death by the treachery or neglect of those in whom

he

he confided. This report seems to be confirmed in a very particular manner; for the house of Minster Lovel, in Oxfordshire, which belonged to this Lord, being, *not many years ago, pulled down*, in a vault was found the body of a man, in very rich cloathing, seated in a chair, with a table and a mass book before him. The body was entire when the workmen entered, but upon admission of the air soon fell to dust."

This confirmatory anecdote is entirely void of foundation. A Dr. Wheeler lived in the castle of the Lovels for many years, and died there about 1744. A parishioner of Minster Lovel, now in his 79th year, was present at the funeral of Dr. Wheeler, and has never lived out of the parish. No part of the building was absolutely fallen to decay, or was taken down, till about the year 1747. If a body had been found sitting in a chair so late as that period, this man, and several other persons now living in the vicinity, must have been acquainted with the circumstance. But no such discovery has been made in their remembrance. The popular rumour still prevails with much force in the neighbourhood; but the most aged tale-bearer professes to have gained his intelligence from antient people, when he was a boy. According to the tradition of the place, it was a female domestic that was privy to Lord Lovel's retreat. She died suddenly, and Lord Lovel was found, some years afterwards, starved, together with a dog, the faithful associate of his captivity. It will be seen that the whole wears the aspect of "a gossip's story over a Christmas fire."

It is curious that a monument is shewn in Minster Lovel Church, as that of Francis Lord Lovel. This tomb, or cenotaph, has no inscription or date. On it are the effigies in marble of a man in armour, the feet resting on the figure of a dog. There is, likewise, a coat of arms; but so obliterated as not to afford any hint of information. The registers of this parish are extremely defective, and record the births and burials of but very few persons before the year 1700.

In this parish was a Priory, belonging to the Alien Monastery

mastery of Ivery, in Normandy, and dissolved in the second of [illegible] V.

[illegible] hamlet of LANGLEY, on the border of Whichwood [illegible] it is traditionally said that there was a royal palace, [illegible] King John, and occasionally visited by the court till the [illegible] of the reign of Charles I. There are not any traces [illegible] now to be discovered; but there assuredly was an edifice [illegible] consequence on the spot; * and it may be observed, that [illegible] rish register of Shipton there is an entry, made in the [illegible] James I. of "a French boy buried from Langley, *the court* [illegible] *ere*."

[illegible] rish of SHIPTON includes the hamlets of Milton, Lyne- [illegible] field, Langley, and Ramsden. Shipton and Milton are [illegible] ed, and they contain upwards of 1000 acres of Down [illegible] hich seem to invite the hand of rural industry. Sir John [illegible] Bart. has a seat in this parish, which has been the resi- [illegible] of his family for near a century. Formerly it was the [illegible] on of the Lacy family, who afterwards resided at *Padlicot*, [illegible] latter place, at the decease of Rowland Lacy, Esq. the [illegible] ale heir, in 1746, became the property of the Fettiplaces.

[illegible] ADLINGTON, which gives a name to this hundred, is a [illegible] g village, three miles south by east of Chippingnorton, [illegible] one handsome residence at the east, and another at the west [illegible] This village was written *Chedelintone*, and *Cadelintone*, [illegible] nesday, and the manor is there reported to be held by [illegible] de Oilgi. Rainald, the Bowyer, (Arcarius,) held two [illegible] and a half of land; and Siward, the huntsman, held of the [illegible] me hides and a half: these Siward himself held freely in [illegible] Edward's time. The manor was afterwards long in the fa- [illegible] of Handlo, of Borstal.

[illegible] URCH ENSTONE is situated near the high road between [illegible] Woodstock

[illegible] s the matter is chiefly traditional, we must accept such authority as [illegible] information supplies;—a very old man of Langley remembers some high [illegible] walls, and two large gate pillars, remaining about seventy years ago.

Woodstock and Chippingnorton. Many of the tenements in this village are sufficiently capacious for genteel comfort, though too small for ostentation. The more humble cottages are invariably built of stone, and gain a considerable degree of pictorial effect from inequality of site.

The church is a spacious building, chiefly of the Gothic of various ages, but the principal entrance is by a Saxon doorcase. Over this venerable entrance is inscribed, "This is none other but the House of God, and Gate of Heaven." The inscription is modern, but it reminds us of those distant periods in which the *Porch* was dedicated to religious ceremonies. Here Christenings * and weddings were anciently performed; and in the porch women were churched after the confinement of childbed. On this latter occasion the woman received the ecclesiastical benediction kneeling, and was then led to the interior, the ceremony being concluded before the altar.

At *Road Enstone*, a part of this parish, so denominated from its contiguity to the highway, are some *Water Works*, which Dr. Plot deemed worthy of a laborious description. These were constructed by a person of the name of Bushell, who had been servant to Lord Bacon. When Charles I. and his queen visited this neighbourhood, in 1636, Bushell submitted his performance to the queen, and much pageantry, and many speeches and songs, took place. The works remain at this day nearly in the same state as when described by Plot in the 17th century. They are of a trivial character; and chiefly create surprise from the circumstance of their remaining uninjured, while so many fine structures, such numerous excellent productions of art, have sunk into the dust, and are almost forgotten.

This district produces several *rare plants*. Among others which occur in Whichwood Forest, are, *Alchemilla vulgaris*. Ladies'

* The actual ceremony of immersion was, of course, performed in the church; and it may be observed that the font was usually placed near the west end, where the chief door of entrance was constructed, with its protecting porch.

Ladies' Mantle. *Aquilegia vulgaris.* Common columbines; plentifully. *Astragalus glycyphillos.* Wild liquorice, or liquorice vetch. *Avena elatior.* Tall oat grass. *Avena pubescens.* Rough oat grass. *Carduus acaulis.* Dwarf carline thistle. *Convallaria maialis.* May lily; in the coppices. *Osmunda Lunaria.* Moonwort. *Spiræa Filipendula.* Dropwort. *Thlaspi arvense:* penny cress; is frequent in the neighbourhood of Chippingnorton.

BLOXHAM HUNDRED

lies north of Chadlington, and is separated from Northamptonshire on the east by the river Charwell. A great want of wood prevails; but this district, like most other parts of the county, is watered by numerous streams and rivulets; which bestow fertility on considerable tracts of pasture, appropriated principally to the dairy. The land under arable cultivation is chiefly strong and deep.

The money raised for the assistance of the poor, &c. in the year ending Easter 1803, was 6991l. 15s. 9½d. making an average of 4s. 3¼d. in the pound.

Bloxham hundred does not contain any market town, and consists of the township of *East Adderbury;* the chapelries of *Barford St. John; Bodicot; Hornton; Mollington:* and the parishes and hamlets of *West Adderbury; Alkerton; Bloxham north;* with Bloxham south; *Broughton; Drayton; Hanwell; Horley; Milcombe; Milton; North Newington; Sibford-Ferris; Sibford-Gower; Tadmarton; Wiggington;* and *Wroxton,* with Balscott.

Bloxham, honoured by giving a name to this hundred, is a village of considerable extent, situate on the high road between Chippingnorton and Banbury, and at the distance of about three miles from the latter town. The church is a very handsome building, and the west door is ornamented with some curious carving in stone, on the subject of the Day of Judgment. The interior is venerable and commanding; but an unhappy taste for neatness has lately induced the churchwardens to bestow on the whole a coat of white-wash.

In

In this village is held, on the Tuesday before Michaelmas Day, a statute fair for the hiring of servants.

Near TADMARTON is the large circular site of a castrametation; and at no great distance, on the north-west, are some smaller works, approaching to a square. These are believed to have been formed in the tenth century, about the time of the battle of Hooknorton; the former by the Danes, the latter by the Saxons. Many Roman coins have been found on the site of the Danish intrenchment, which would seem to prove that the spot, though adopted by the Danes, had formerly been occupied by the Romans.

Mr. Wise, in a MS. letter to Mr. Gale, the substance of which is published by Gough, thinks that a Roman town extended round the foot of a hill, in SWACLIFF parish, on which is a double intrenchment, called Madmason Castle; and observes that the blackness of the soil for three feet deep shews that this town was destroyed by fire. The argument arising from blackness of soil seems of a disputable nature; and if a Roman town did indeed stand here, we want relics to prove that it was of any extent or consideration.

Two miles on the south-west of Banbury is BROUGHTON CASTLE. The manor of Broughton formerly belonged to the family of De Broughton, who probably took their surname from the place, and who obtained a charter of free warren here, about the 29th of Edward I. It was afterwards vested in the family of Wykham. Margaret, the daughter and heir of Sir William Wykham, carried the property in marriage to Sir William Fiennes, Lord Say and Sele. The Lord Viscount Say and Sele is the present proprietor of the castle and attached domain; but has not latterly resided here. The seat is, now, in part, occupied by a gentleman, his tenant.

Broughton Castle is surrounded by a broad and deep moat, over which is a stone bridge of two arches. An ancient tower forms the entrance to the court. The outer gate is still perfect, and there appear, from the remaining staples, to have been two other gates; but there are no traces of the port-callis. The

eastern side of the castle is the more ancient part. This was, probably, erected by the Broughtons, in the reign of one of the early Edwards. A small tower on the south-east angle has loop-holes for the discharge of arrows. The north front was principally built by the family of Fiennes, in the year 1544. The hall is of large dimensions, and the fine old dining-room is entered beneath a canopy, surmounted by the family arms.

The passages are curiously arched, and the present dining room has likewise a roof of arched stone. Beyond is a stone staircase leading to a dressing room, once the chapel; and some apartments, probably belonging to the chaplain. In the window of the chapel are some very antient arms.

On the second floor is a large drawing room, the ceiling of which is enriched with armorial bearings. Adjacent is a long gallery, whose windows are replete with ancient arms, principally those of the Fiennes, and their intermarriages. Into this gallery open the chambers, one of which has some old painted glass, and is called the king's room. While viewing these impressive remains of baronial magnificence, we cannot avoid regretting that the rooms were some few years back deprived of their furniture, the memorials of many a scene of dignified festivity! and are now daily dilapidating from disuse.

On felling a large beech tree in this domain, about ten years back, a gold ring was found deposited beneath it. On the ring was engraved a knight, with his legs crossed, and a shield with the arms of St. John of Jerusalem. Upon a scroll was this legend, in Norman French; *Joie sans ni cesse:* literally, Joy without cease. This curious ring was once possessed by the Rev. E. G. Walford, and now belongs to Lady Say and Sele.

In the spacious church are buried several of the Twisleton family, who succeeded to the female barony of Say and Sele, by an intermarriage with the family of Fiennes. In the chancel are the fragments of a superb monument, supporting the recumbent figures of a knight and his lady. This tomb was deprived

of its inscription and ornaments by the fanaticism of the seventeenth century; but it was probably intended to commemorate one of the Broughtons, or Wykhams. Against the wall are several brackets, designed to support either tapers, or the images of saints; and over the whole it is evident that there was once a Gothic canopy. In the south wall of the church are the recumbent figures of two knights, but without any inscription: there are also many stone monuments of the Lords Say and Sele, prior to the title descending to the Twisleton family.

The manor of Alkerton (sometimes written *Okerton*, and formerly spelt *Aulkrynton*,) was the property of Christian Lydiat, father of Timothy Lydiat, the unfortunate scholar whom we have already briefly noticed in our account of New College, and to whose fate Dr. Johnson thus alludes in his Vanity of Human Wishes:

> *If dreams yet flatter, once again attend;*
> *Hear Lydiat's Life, and Galileo's end.*

Timothy Lydiat was born at ALKERTON, and applied, at an early period, to mathematics and astronomy. His proficiency was great; and some of the first scholars of his era did not scruple to rank him with Lord Verulam. He was patronized by Prince Henry, son of James I.; and, after the death of this prince, he went to Ireland, under the protection of Archbishop Usher. On his return to England he married that primate's sister, and settled at Alkerton, where he accepted the rectory, of which his father was patron. Having unfortunately become security to a large amount for a relation, he was thrown first into the Bocardo at Oxford, and afterwards into the King's Bench. He was released from imprisonment by the generosity of some friends, of whom Archbishop Usher was the principal: but he was doomed to a succession of trials. The Parliament party injured him deeply at the commencement of the civil war; and he passed the close of his life at Alkerton, in poverty and obscurity. He was buried in the church of his native village; and an inscription, which merely informed the reader that he was the "faithful pas-

tor of that church," was painted on the wall; but even this sordid memorial is now concealed by the merciless operations of the whitewasher's brush. In the church-yard are many grave-stones to the Lydiat family.

At WROXTON, near Banbury, was a priory of canons regular of St. Augustin, founded in the reign of Henry III. and valued at 78l. 13s. 4d. The buildings of the ancient priory were destroyed by fire; but, on the site, is erected an extensive mansion, the present residence of the Earl of Guilford.

The estate came into the family of North by the marriage of Francis, lord-keeper Guilford, with Lady Frances Pope, sister of the fourth and last Earl of Downe. The only remains of the original priory are an arch, which was probably a door of entrance, and a small portion of the passages communicating with offices in the lower division of the building. The greater part of the structure was erected by Sir William Pope, afterwards Earl of Downe, in the year 1618. The building is of an ornamental and interesting character, though it was not completed according to the original design, as an intended wing on the south side was never commenced. The lord-keeper made some additions; and the present earl has erected an elegant library, after a plan by Mr. Smirke. The chapel is a fine room, beautified by the first Earl of Guilford.

This mansion is enriched by many ancient portraits of the families of Pope and North. Among the former is an original of Sir Thomas Pope, founder of Trinity College, Oxford, and uncle to the first Earl of Downe. Of the latter there is a complete series of the Lord Norths, from Edward, the first lord, created in the reign of Philip and Mary, to the present Earl of Guilford. The whole of Wroxton priory is creditable to the taste of the noble owner. Every improvement introduced (and many have been effected) is rendered subservient to the ancient baronial character of the edifice. The gardens and pleasure-grounds will be viewed with particular interest, as no innovating hand has robbed them of their monastic features.

The church of Wroxton contains many monuments which demand notice. On a black marble grave-stone is an inscription to "Elizabeth, late wife of Francis, Lord Guilford, and one of the daughters of the Right Honourable Fulke, Lord Brooke." She died in 1699. Another grave-stone, of a similar description, commemorates Francis, Lord Guilford, himself, lord-keeper of the great seal of England, born October 22, 1637; died September 5, 1685. On the north side of the chancel, within the rails, is a magnificent tomb, with the recumbent effigies of William Pope, first Earl of Downe, and his lady; knights kneeling and supporting the cushions on which their heads recline. Over the figures is a canopy, raised on black marble pillars. On the same side of the chancel is a marble tablet affixed to the wall, surmounted with angels, to the memory of the lady of the lord-keeper Guilford. On the south wall of the chancel is a monument to Francis, Earl of Guilford, and his three wives.* Immediately adjoining is an elegant monument lately erected to the memory of the prime minister, Lord North, who had succeeded to the earldom of Guilford a short time prior to his death. In a niche, on the right of the communion rails, is a brass plate, formerly attached to a grave-stone in the chancel, with this inscription:—"Here lyeth under this stone buryed, Margaret Bostarde Wydowe, sometyme the wyf of Wylliam Pope, of Dedinton, in the county of Oxford, Gent. and afterwards married to John Bostarde, of Atterbury; which Willyam and Margaret were father and mother to Sir Thomas Pope, Knt. and John Pope, Esq." She died 1557. The church, likewise, contains one of the family of Sacheverell.

The parish of DRAYTON joins that of Wroxton on the east. This lordship was formerly possessed by Sir Giles Arden, Knight. The eldest of the two daughters and coheirs of Sir Giles Arden, carried the estate, by marriage, to Lodowick Grevile, whose descendants

* This monument has been lately engraved for the Life of Bishop Hough by Mr. Wilmot.

scendants long resided here. The Earl of Guilford* is now proprietor of the larger part of the parish; the remainder, with the advowson of the rectory, belongs to the Duchess of Dorset in her own right, as heiress of the *Copes* of Hanwell.

The Greviles constructed a mansion of some importance on the south-east of the church of Drayton; the fragments of this building are now converted into a poor-house. The church contains several memorials of the family. On the north side of the chancel is an altar-tomb. The top is of alabaster, and has engraven on it the figures of a knight and his lady. On the left of the knight are the arms of Grevile, and between the two figures is a coat of Grevile, impaling Arden. Over the heads is

 a scroll

* A portion of this estate appears to have come into his lordship's family by the marriage of Francis, the second Lord Guilford, with one of the daughters of Fulk Grevile, Lord Brooke.—Concerning *Ladowick Grevile*, lord of this manor in the time of Elizabeth, is told the following curious story. He was a man of expensive habits, and greatly injured his property by overbuilding, at Mount Grevile, in Warwickshire. To recruit his purse, he drew a plan for the murder of a rich farmer, named Webb, who was one of his tenants at Drayton. He invited his intended victim to make merry with him, either at Christmas or Easter, and then bribed two servants to strangle him in bed. He gave out that the old man was sick, and in danger of dying. The minister was sent for to make his will: one of the murderers was put in bed with the corpse, the curtains were drawn close, and the murderer acted the part of the supposed dying person, and signed, in his name, a will, by which the whole of Webb's property was left to Ladowick Grevile, except a legacy to an attorney at Banbury, whose interference was apprehended. When this was done, it was reported that Webb's sickness increased, and he expired.

This representation met with some credit; but one of the murderers soon talked indiscreetly at a neighbouring public-house. Fearful of discovery, the master sent both his accomplices out one dark night on pretended business. The less loquacious of the two then murdered the other, according to a contract made with his master, and threw the body into a pit. The corpse was afterwards found, and the assassin confessed his guilt. Both the master and servant were tried for their reiterated offences at Warwick. Grevile refused to plead; and, as he persisted in standing mute, he was consigned to the fate formerly usual in such cases, and was *pressed to death*.

a scroll of eight lines, in Latin, which informs us that the monument was erected to Lodowick Grevile, who died on the 18th of August, 1438; and Margaret, his wife, daughter of Sir Giles Arden. Against the wall of the south aisle is another altar-tomb, the top of which is likewise of alabaster. On the tablet-stone is engraved the figure of an esquire, his sword by his side. The latter inscription states this to be the tomb of William Grevile, who died in August, 1440. This William was eldest son of the above-named Lodowick, and married Anne, daughter to Sir Robert Francis, of Foremark, in Derbyshire. Inarched, near the north door of the church, is a very ancient sepulchral erection, without any inscription: this consists of a stone coffin, on the top of which are carved three poles, encircled with ivy or vine leaves. The coffin is traditionally believed to contain the body of the founder of the church.

It is locally said that a pavement of "fine-coloured tiles," and a bath, were discovered, about thirty years back, in the vicinity of the former seat of the Greviles. It is certain that Roman coins have been found at Drayton, some of which are now in the possession of the Rev. E. G. Walford. These are coins of the latter emperors.

HANWELL is rather more than one mile from Drayton, on the north-east. The manor was once possessed by *Ralph De Venux*, of whom it was procured by the *Arden* family.* From the Ardens it passed, by marriage, together with the estate at Drayton, to Lodowick Grevile. It was afterwards obtained by the family of Cope, whose heiress, as we have already observed, is her grace the present Duchess of Dorset.

William Cope, of Banbury, Esq. was cofferer to Henry VII. His descendant, Sir Antony Cope, was one of the first baronets created by James I. in 1611.; and the family flourished through many, successions in this northern part of the county. "Mr. Cope," says Leland, "hath an old manor-place, called Hardwick, a mile north from Banbury; and another pleasant and gallant house at *Hanwell*." The manor-place of Hardwick, which

* Rawlinson's MSS.

which we find was "old" in the time of Henry VIII. has now entirely disappeared; but of the "gallant house at Hanwell" there are still some lingering remains.

From an antient drawing, possessed by the Rev. Mr. Walford, it appears that the edifice was of a quadrangular form, with a tower at each corner. The chief parts of the building were taken down about forty years back; the fragments yet to be seen consist of the tower at the south-east angle, and a portion of the south front, which was occupied in offices, now converted into a parlour and a dairy. These rooms are divided by two large and curious kitchen ranges, placed back to back. In the original state of the building there was a gallery, commencing in the south-east tower, and communicating with the chancel of the church, which is situated on a hill, level with the floor of the central apartment of this tower.

On the north side of the chancel of the church is a handsome monument, supporting the recumbent effigies of a baronet and his lady. At the feet of the man is placed his crest, a fleur-de-lis, with a dragon's head issuing out of the top; at the feet of the lady a bird, with the wings displayed. The monument is likewise richly adorned with arms, &c. A Latin inscription, placed on three tablets,* informs us that the tomb was constructed for Sir

* The whole of this monumental tribute is curious. The inscription on the third tablet is as follows:

EFFIGIES AD LECTOREM.

QVÆTE FATA MANENT EX MEVEL DISCE (VIATOR)
QVO NEMO A FATIS TVTIOR ESSE POTEST.
EST FORMOSA TIBI CONIVX, NVMEROSAQ PROLES.
EST DOMVS & FVNDVS, GLORIA, FORMA, DECVS
CORPORIS; AC ANIMI DOTES; PRVDENSQ PIVSQ
SOBRIVS & CASTVS, DICERIS; ESTO: MIHI
ET CONIVX PRÆCLARA FVIT, NVMEROSAQ PROLES.
ET DOMVS & FVNDVS, GLORIA, FORMA, DECVS
CORPORIS: AC ANIMI DOTES, PRVDENSQ PIVSQ
SIOCVS ERAM & SANVS (SIQVA FIDES POPVLO,

 NAM-

Sir Antony Cope, knight and baronet, who died in 1614, at the age of 66. This monument was cleaned two years back, by order of the Duchess of Dorset; but several of the ornamental parts had previously fallen off, and are utterly lost.

Bodicot, or, as it was anciently spelt, Bodycoat, is a hamlet, situated near the road leading from Oxford to Banbury, whose chapel of ease is one of the members of the valuable benefice of Adderbury. At this place was born, in the year 1616, the celebrated mathematician, John Kersey, author of a Treatise on Algebra, which still maintains a considerable share of reputation. His baptism is thus recorded in the register appertaining to the chapel:—"John, the sonne of Anthony Carsaye and Alice his wife, was baptized the 23d day of November, Anno Domini 1616." Kersey's work, intituled "Elements of Algebra," is one of the clearest and most comprehensive of the kind in any language. He also published an improved edition of Wingate's Arithmetic; and, it is believed, an English Dictionary. A head of him, finely engraved by Fairthorne, is prefixed to his Algebra. He died in the reign of Charles II.

The chapel of Bodicot consists of a nave, and side aisle to the south. The tower, which is low, is placed on the north side of the nave; and is open on the south and east sides to the church.

The village of Adderbury is rather more than two miles north of Deddington. The first historical notice of this place, with which we have met, occurs in Knyghton, who says, that in a coun-

Nam meq memorare piget) mors ista moratur
Nil minus; ergo etiam te tua fata manent.
Serius aut citius, mors ultima linea rerum
Marmore te condet, ces pitiusq teget.

CONCLVSIO.

Qvod mors una docet dixi; dehinc cetera mitto;
Vna resurgendi spesq fidesq manet:
Vna salus Christus; Deus et pater vnus, et vna
Vna domus præsens; vna futura polus.

R. H. ÆTERNÆ
MEMORIÆ
SVMMI VIRI
D. D.

a council of bishops, held MCCXIX, in Oxford, a blasphemous impostor, who assumed the name, and pretended to the wounds of Jesus, was condemned to be crucified at *Abburbury*. In the reign of Charles I. (1644] Adderbury gave the title of Baron to Henry Wilmot, Earl of Rochester. This is an extensive village, and possesses some buildings connected with interesting particulars.

Near a spot of ground, denominated the Green, stands the ancient mansion of the Cobb family, its venerable walls pressing forwards to the last stage of decay, and clothed with luxuriant ivy. Each mouldering fragment acquires additional effect from the contrast presented by a neat and flourishing residence, which has been constructed close to the ruin. The rooms of this mansion were lofty and spacious; and the attached grounds, though small, were pleasing. The Cobb family lived here for nearly two centuries, in the exercise of genuine English hospitality. Sir George Cobb, Bart. the last lineal possessor, died in 1762, and lies buried in the chancel of the parish church.

At a short remove from this perishing memorial of the family comfort of past ages formerly stood the superb mansion of the Duke of Buccleugh, an edifice which within the last ten years has been reduced by its present possessor, J. E. Field, Esq. from a magnitude of dimensions adequate to the residence of royalty, to the limits of a commodious modern building. The house commands a fine, though not an extensive prospect, to the south, over some fertile grounds pleasingly diversified with hill and valley. Within these once-splendid walls resided that pitiable victim to evil example, Wilmot, Earl of Rochester; a man, whose daring height of libertinism, and humility of penitence, are calculated equally to surprise the reader of his story. Many of the spouts attached to the mansion bore his initials and coronet; and the magnificent state-bed, which formed a part of his furniture, is now in the possession of Mr. Field, by whom it has been tastefully modernized. The celebrated bard of Twickenham once slept in this bed; and, on his departure from the mansion,

(then the hospitable abode of John, Duke of Argyle,) July 9, 1739, he left the following lines, which, as they may be new to many readers, cannot be deemed unacceptable in this place:

With no poetic ardour fir'd,
I press the bed where Wilmot lay;
That here he lov'd, or here expir'd,
Begets no numbers, grave or gay.

But in thy roof, Argyle! are bred
Such thoughts as prompt the brave to lie,
Stretch'd out in honour's nobler bed,
Beneath a nobler roof—the sky.

Such flames as high in patriots burn,
Yet stoop to bless a child or wife;
And such as wicked kings may mourn,
When freedom is more dear than life.

Much judgment has been shewn in the recent alterations, both of the house and demesne. Considering the conversion of the building from an ancient to a modern style, it may safely be pronounced a happy effort of architectural consistency and adaptation.

In the western division of the village is the respectable residence of J. Barber, Esq. who has a small, but valuable, collection of portraits,* among which are three supposed to be unique: Sir Samuel Luke, the Hero of Hudibras, his Wife and Son.

Adderbury Church† is a fine Gothic structure, with a steeple about

* Mr. Barber is also possessed of an original Charter, obtained at the instance of Wilmot, Earl of Rochester, from Charles II. which exonerates the inhabitants of Adderbury from several dues exacted by the Mayor of Banbury for the support of the fortifications and garrison of that town. At present, all cattle driven thither, on fair or market-days, are, by this instrument, freed from the payment of toll.

† See an engraving of this church, from a drawing by the Rev. W. Woolston, Vicar of Adderbury, in the Gent. Mag. for March, 1800. We are indebted to the polite information of that gentleman for every thing that may be deemed interesting in our notice of this village.

about 160 feet in height. The vicarage belonged to William of Wykham, and was given by him to the college of his founding at Oxford.* The chancel bears marks of his architectural judgment. This part of the building had originally six lofty windows; but, some years back, a dispute occurred between the vicar of that period, and the steward of the estates of the late Sir George Cobb, who held the appropriation of the great tithes, relative to the repairs of these windows; and the steward, in opposition to the vicar, walled three of them up with stones taken from an old dog-kennel!

In the church are the remains of a spacious rood-loft, with its attached staircase. In the chancel is an elegant monument to the memory of Dr. Oldys, who was waylaid by some soldiers of the Parliament army, and was shot at the top of the village, in the road leading to Banbury. In the church-yard is the monument of Dr. William Bew, Bishop of Llandaff, who died in 1705, having formerly been vicar of Adderbury.

At the Free-school of this village, (of which his father was master,) was born, in the year 1626, John Cole, author of "The Art of Simpling," and "Adam in Eden, or Nature's Paradise." His works were once much admired, and are still held in some repute; but very little is known concerning his life. He died in 1692.

The Church of BARFORD ST. JOHN'S, or LITTLE BARFORD, acts as a chapel of ease to Adderbury, and consists of one aisle only. The building appears to have been re-edified about the reign of Edward III. Of the old church only the south wall, to the height of twelve feet, was retained. On this side, the church is entered by a door of Saxon architecture. In the south-east corner of the chancel is an elegant Piscina. The tithes of this place, together with those of Bodicot, were assigned to the vicar of Adderbury by William of Wykham.

WIGGINTON is a retired village, distant about five miles and a half

* The instrument of endowment, executed in New College Hall, bears date 1385.

half from Deddington. The church is a plain neat building, new paved and new pewed within the last few years. In the chancel are two recumbent effigies: one of these is concealed from view; the other displays a knight, in the act of unsheathing his sword. On the outside of the south wall is a piece of ancient sculpture, representing a man and two children, one a male, the other a female, with their hands folded in the attitude of prayer. There is no inscription nor tradition relative to these figures.

Nearly on the east of the church, at the distance of about 300 yards, are some remains of a tesselated pavement, at present covered with earth. In the vicinity of the pavement have been found coins of the Emperor Constantine.

BANBURY HUNDRED

touches the extent of the county on the north, and is bounded towards the east by Northamptonshire. A portion of the hundred, including the town of Charlbury, is separated from the rest, and inclosed by the hundreds of Chadlington and Wootton. The face of the country is too bare of wood to allow much picturesque variety of feature; but in more solid points of consideration this hundred ranks among the most estimable in the county. The land is judiciously enclosed, and in a good state of cultivation. The Oxford canal enters the hundred near Clayden, and touches the town of Banbury in its progress to the interior, thus affording a facility to commerce, in the highest degree important.

The money raised for the assistance of the poor, &c. within the year ending Easter 1802, amounted to 7925l. 6s. 1½d. making an average of 7s. 9½d. in the pound.

This hundred comprises the borough and parish of BANBURY; the town of *Charlbury*; and the following parishes and hamlets: *Bourton*, Great and Little; *Clattercot* (extra parochial,) *Clayden*, *Croprede*, *Epwell*, *Fawler*, *Finstock*, *Neithrop*, *Prescot*, *Shutford East*, with Shutford West; *Swacliff*, *Wardington*, with Williamscot, otherwise Willscot, and Coton.

THE

THE TOWN OF BANBURY

is watered by the river Cherwell, which here divides the counties of Oxford and Northampton. This town was the branavis of the Romans; and numerous Roman coins have been found in the neighbourhood.* Camden says, that Kenric, the West Saxon, here defeated the Britons, after a signal and obstinate conflict; but this battle was really fought at Barbury in Wiltshire.

We do not find any historical event of importance connected with Banbury till the reign of Edward IV. A conflict then took place, which we have already briefly noticed.† It is said by some historians, that, on this occasion, Edward's two generals, the Earls of Pembroke and Devonshire, quarrelled concerning quarters. The latter entered the town first, and took possession of an inn, which the Earl of Pembroke, the superior in command, chose for himself. The Earl of Devonshire was obliged to retire; but it seems that, with the true gaiety of a soldier, he had fixed his notice on a pretty bar-maid, who officiated in the quarters which he was compelled to relinquish; and he quitted the town, with his men, in great discontent. The rebels profited by this opportunity, and attacked the remaining forces. The day was for some time doubtful, but the insurgents at length prevailed, and beheaded the Earl of Pembroke, either in the town or its immediate neighbourhood, together with Sir Richard Herbert, his brother, and ten other gentlemen.

In

* Dr. Stukely observes, that a Roman altar was likewise discovered here, which was placed in a niche under the sign of an inn, called from thence, The Altar-Stone Inn. This relic was taken down about forty years back, and is probably destroyed. A gentleman, whose father, purchased *The George* and Altar-Stone Inn in the year 1771, and who himself resold it, well remembers an elevation called the altar-stone. This he describes as "a piece of stone-work about eight feet long, with an arch raised upon it about ten feet high. In the niche of the arch was placed a stone," the presumed Roman relic. This erection stood in the street, a few feet opposite to the house of entertainment.

† Page 7.

In the civil war of the seventeenth century Banbury suffered severely. The castle was besieged, and many skirmishes took place; but the town was retained by the king until he quitted his distracted southern territories for Scotland. In the parish register are many entries of the interment of soldiers slain during these conflicts.

"The most part of Banbury," says Leland, "stands in a valley, enclosed by low grounds. The fayrest street lyes by west and east, down to the Cherwell: in the west part of it is a large area, environed with metely good buildings, having a goodly cross, with many degrees about it. In this area is kept every Thursday a very celebrated market. There is another fair street from south to north; and at each end a stone gate; also other gates, yet no certain token or likelihood that ever the town was ditched or walled."

The years which have passed since Leland wrote have obliterated many of these traces. The cross and the gates are no more; but numerous eligible buildings have risen in their stead. The town now wears a cheerful aspect; and the domestic buildings are of a respectable character, though irregularly placed. Still the inhabitants are backward in many particulars of local accommodation. The streets are not paved, and are, in wet weather, deplorably dirty. Traffic appears to be the great object of pursuit; and if matters of real convenience are neglected, it cannot be supposed that leisure is found for attention to circumstances of taste alone. Hence, in several instances, where the beauty of the town might have been increased by recent public elevations, the examiner finds that nearly an opposite result has, in fact, accrued.

The new Town-hall, erected not many years since, is a mean brick building, already much cracked, and under the necessity of being propped every session and gaol delivery.

The venerable and extensive old church was a striking ornament to the town. This building was reared by Alexander, Bishop of Lincoln; and was repaired, in 1686, at the expense of 500l.

3001. by Dr. Fell, Bishop of Oxford. In the last century it sank to a state of dangerous ruin, and was taken down, by act of Parliament, in 1790. The plan of the new church was made by Mr. Cockerill. Sixteen thousand pounds have already been expended; but it appears that six thousand more are necessary to complete the structure. The part used for Divine service is finished; and is, *within*, about ninety feet square. The pewing is of Norway oak, and is extremely handsome. An excellent organ has been procured; and galleries are placed in a conspicuous situation for the reception of the charity children. But the exterior of the building is gloomy, from the want of a tower, and from the absence of all ornamental particulars connected with a completion of the design. It is to be regretted that no measures have been taken for a restoration of the monuments contained in the ancient church. Among these was one to William Cope, cofferer to Henry VII.*

Banbury has a charity-school for twenty boys and sixteen girls, which is chiefly supported by subscription. There are, likewise, unendowed alms-houses for ten poor widows.

In this town were two religious houses: a college, dedicated to St. Mary, valued at 48l. 6s. per annum; and an hospital, dedicated to St. John, valued at 15l. 1s. 10½d. per annum; "which," says the author of Magna Britannia, "none of our writers about the ancient monasteries speak any thing of." The remains of this hospital have long been converted into a barn, and are now the property of T. Cobb, Esq.

Banbury Castle was built by Alexander, Bishop of Lincoln, in 1125. When this munificent prelate was taken prisoner by King Stephen, at Oxford, he was compelled to resign the castellated edifice so lately erected; but it was shortly restored to the see, and long continued one of the numerous habitations of the bishops. In the reign of Edward III. we find frequent notice of their

* Mr. Bray, in his "Tour," says, that Bishop Alexander "is supposed to have been buried in the chancel, under a tomb on which is a mutilated figure recumbent." This bishop was buried in his cathedral at Lincoln.

their residence here; and they obtained a charter of free-warren in their land at Banbury. In the first of Edward VI. Bishop Holbech resigned the manor to the Crown.*

The castle was an extensive structure, and was thus described by Leland in the reign of Henry VIII.—"Ther is a Castle, having two Wards, and each Ward a Ditch. In the utter is a terrible Prison for convict Men. In the north part of the inner Ward is a fair piece of new Building of Stone."

There now remains of this formidable building only a fragment of one of the walls, between two and three yards square, on which rests a part of a tenement occupied by a gardener, who rents the site of the edifice. A contiguous range of land, termed the Castle Close, is divided into small gardens, tenanted by the inhabitants of the town.

In the war between Charles and his Parliament, the castle was defended for the King by Sir William Compton. The Parliament forces, under Colonel Fiennes, made many attempts to reduce it by mines and batteries, and strove in vain to carry it by storm. "The mines were found to be ineffectual, on account of the many springs which broke in upon them, and the besiegers made an unsuccessful attempt to draw the moat. At length, on the 25th of October, 1644, the Earl of Northampton, with a party

* By the account of the endowment of the bishopric of Lincoln, taken 26th Henry VIII. it appears that the value of the estate here was as follows:

	L.	s.	d.
Banbury Burgh	14	13	10
Banbury Ballw. and Hundred	4	4	4
Banbury præposit Castri	52	14	8

It may likewise be observed, that in the reign of Edward I. an inquisition was made into the rents, services, and customs of all the manors of the Bishop of Lincoln, when this manor was valued at LIVI. XIVs. IIId. The impropriation of the rectory, and advowson of the vicarage of Banbury, belonged to a prebend in Lincoln Cathedral, called the Prebend of Banbury, which was dissolved in 1548. Queen Elizabeth gave the estate, in exchange for other lands, to the bishopric of Oxford.

party of the King's horse from Newbury, came to the relief of the place, having been joined by Colonel Gage at Adderbury, with a strong body of horse and foot. On their approach Colonel Fiennes retreated towards Hanwell; being pursued by the Earl of Northampton, who sent Colonel Webb, with the Oxford horse, to make a circuit round Crouch-hill. After a pretty sharp dispute the enemy retired hastily, and dispersed in the neighbourhood of Hanwell, Cropredy, Broughton, and Compton.

"The castle was again besieged in 1646, by Colonel Whaley, who lay before it ten weeks ere the governor would hearken to any terms."* At length a surrender was judged expedient, and the governor acceded to honourable conditions on the 8th of May.

It is probable that the inhabitants of Banbury experienced some severity from the King's forces during their long possession of the castle, for this town was decidedly favourable to the opposite party. Many writers have alluded to the sectarian spirit which prevailed here in the seventeenth century. *Zeal of the Land busy*, the puritan-suitor to Mrs. Purecraft, in Ben Jonson's Bartholomew Fair, is a Banbury man; and Plot has a sarcastic observation on the *zealous* temper of the inhabitants in religious matters. †

* Vide an account by Mr. Rusher of Banbury, in his work intitled Crouch Hill.

† The anecdote concerning Camden will here be recollected. When Holland was employed in translating the Britannia, Camden, as it is said, accidentally visited the printing-office, while the sheet containing his account of Banbury was at press, and found that to his own observation of Banbury being famous for *Cheese*, the translator had added *Cakes* and *Ale*. Thinking this remark too trifling he changed the last word into *Zeal*, which it seems gave considerable offence. In his MS. supplement to the Britannia, in the Bodleian Library, he has this note on the circumstance: "Put out the word *zeale*, in Banbury, where some think it a disgrace, when as zeale with knowledge is the greater grace among good Christians: for it was first foysted in by some compositor or pressman; neither is it in my Latin copie, which I desire the reader to hold as authentic."

In a close adjoining the south side of the town is an amphitheatre, still termed the *Bear Garden*, with two rows of seats cut from the side of the rising ground. We rarely meet, near provincial towns in this part of the island, with a similar vestige of the barbarous pleasures of an unlettered age.

Banbury received its first charter of incorporation from Queen Mary, in the first year of her reign, in consequence of the attachment to her cause manifested by the inhabitants, when the Duke of Northumberland endeavoured to advance his daughter, Lady Jane Grey, to the throne. This was renewed by King James I. who, at the same time, bestowed some additional privileges. The existing charter was granted by George I. The corporation consists of twelve aldermen and six capital burgesses, who elect the member of Parliament.

This town conferred the title of Earl on William Lord Knollys, of Grey's Court. He was the son of Sir Francis Knollys, Knight of the Garter; and succeeded his father in the office of treasurer to Queen Elizabeth's household. In the first of James I. he was advanced to the dignity of Baron Knollys, of Greys. He was shortly after made Viscount Wallingford by the same king; and, in the second of Charles I. was created Earl of Banbury. He had two wives, but left no issue by either. His last wife, Elizabeth, daughter of the Earl of Suffolk, re-married to Nicholas Lord Vaux; and her son Nicholas assumed the name of Knollys, and claimed the Earldom of Banbury, but was never summoned to Parliament. His son, Charles Knollys, preferred the same claim, but received no summons.*

Banbury

* It will be remembered that a claim to this title has been lately agitated. Concerning the Knollys family (already noticed in our account of the parish of Greys) we learn the following particulars from Coates's History of the Town of Reading; "Sir Francis Knollys, of Fern Hill, near Cranbourn Lodge, in Windsor Forest, was the last male heir of the family. He died without issue, in 1772, intestate as to his real estates." On the death of his lady, who survived him, an advertisement was inserted in the Gazette, calling on

Banbury has not any staple manufactory of consequence, but is engaged in trade to a considerable extent. The Coventry and Oxford Canal is a source of much commercial advantage, and the inhabitants have constructed one public and two private wharfs. There are a weekly market, and nine annual fairs, which are well attended.*

The returns to Parliament for 1811 state the population to be 2,841, and the number of houses 595.

GREAT BOURTON is a village three miles north of Banbury. The manor was possessed by Thomas Lord Bradeston, in the reigns of Edward II. and III. The heir general of this family carried the estate to the De la Poles. It was afterwards an appendage to St. Frideswide, Oxford; and was bestowed by Henry VIII. on Christ Church.

The neighbouring village of CROPREDY acquires an interest from the battle which took place there in the civil war of Charles, usually termed, at that period, the battle of Cropredy Bridge. In this contest the king's forces were disposed with much judgment. The ground was disputed by inches; and, though no entire discomfiture took place, Sir William Waller, the Parliamentarian general, thought it expedient to retire.

In the vicinity of this village was born, in the seventeenth century, an enthusiast, named Walter Gostelow. He published a book †, in which he informs the little world of his readers that

 he

on the heir of the late Sir Francis to make out his claim before a certain date. Several claimants appeared, but without being able to establish their pretensions. At length, Mr. Prankard and Mr. Welldale, claimants from the female line, having married two sisters, coheiresses, obtained a favourable verdict.

* Camden was not singular in his opinion respecting the goodness of the Cheese brought to Banbury market. Shakspeare makes one of the characters in Henry IV. call Falstaff a Banbury cheese, because he is of a fat and rich habit.

† Intituled "Charles Stuart and Oliver Cromwell united, or Glad Tidings of Peace to all Christendom; to the Jews and Heathens conversion; to the Church

he drew his first breath in Prescot House, near Cropredy, "which, in his recollection, had groves and fair walks about it. Some religious house he conceives it to have been. An altar and a chapel stood there, during his childhood."

At CLATTERCOT, near Claydon, are some remains of a monastery, which was dedicated to St. Leonard, and was valued, at the Dissolution, at 34l. 19s. 11d.

The town of CHARLBURY, though in Banbury hundred, is distant only seven miles from Woodstock. This place obtained the grant of a weekly market in the reign of Stephen; but it has now little of the privilege, except the name. The glove manufactory has lately been introduced, and appears likely to produce considerable benefit to the inhabitants.

In the register of the parish occurs the notice of "a plague, which began here on the 10th of June, 1583, and ended on the 25th of November in the same year." In the church are buried several of the Jenkinson family, who long resided at Walcot in this neighbourhood.

In the vicinity of Charlbury is BLANDFORD PARK. This estate was formerly termed *Cornbury*, and was the seat of Henry Danvers, Earl of Danby, who died here. It was afterwards possessed and occupied by Edward, Earl of Clarendon, who took his title of Viscount from this place. The property was purchased, some years back, by the Duke of Marlborough, and is now the occasional residence of the Duke of Beaufort. The seat is placed nearly in the centre of a spacious park; and many pleasing views are obtained from different parts of the grounds.

Among *rare Plants* found in this hundred may be mentioned: *Anemone Pulsatilla.* Pasque flower; in several parts of Blandford Park. *Arenaria tenuifolia.* Fine-leaved chickweed; in a quarry near Charlbury. *Berberis vulgaris.* Barbery, or pepperidge bush; in hedges about Charlbury. Near the same place are,

Church of Rome certain downfall. The Irish not be transplanted. Extraordinarily declared by God Almighty to the Publisher, Walter Gostelow. Printed for the author, 1655."

Engraved by Woolnoth from a Drawing by J. P. Neale. for the Beauties of England & Wales

BLANDFORD HOUSE,
Oxfordshire.
The Seat of the Duke of Beaufort.

London Published by John Harris St Paul's Church Yard Dec 1. 1814.

are, likewise, found *Chara Tomentosa*. Brittle chara. *Spergula Nodosa*. Knotted spurry, or English marsh saxifrage. In the hedges is frequently seen *valantia cruciata*. Cross wort, or mugweed.

PLOUGHLEY HUNDRED

is separated from Wootton by the river Charwell, and joins the hundred of Bullington on the south and south-east. The aspect of country is in general flat, or relieved only by downy expanses little conducive to pictorial effect. The soil of the higher land is shallow, but tenacious; the stonebrash pervades a large portion of the other districts. The Oxford canal runs along the whole western side. A part of this hundred, including the parish of Lillingstone-lovel, is isolated in Buckinghamshire.

The money raised for the assistance of the poor, &c. in the year ending Easter 1803, was 8338l. 15s. 10½d. making an average of 3s. 3½d. in the pound.

This hundred contains the market town of BICESTER, and the following parishes and hamlets: *Ardley; Bletchingdon; Boycot* (extra-parochial;) *Bucknell; Charlton upon Otmore; Chesterton; Cotsford; Fencot* and *Murcot; Finmere; Fringford; Fritwell; Goddington; Hampton-Gay; Hampton-Poyle; Hardwicke; Heath; Heyford lower; Heyford warren*, or *upper; Islip; Kirklington; Launton; Lillingstone-lovel; Middleton-stoney; Mixbury; Newton-Purcel; Noke; Oddington; Shelswell; Somerton; Souldern; Stoke-Lyne; Stratton-Audley; Tusmore; Wendlebury; Weston on the Green.*

BICESTER

is a neat market town, but in a flat situation, near the eastern border of the county. The parish is divided into two districts, termed King's End and Market End. In the former division is

a handsome structure, the property and occasional residence of John Coker, Esq. Many of the domestic buildings inhabited by traders are respectable, though few surpass mediocrity of character. The church is a spacious and pleasing edifice. No peculiar manufacture is here cultivated, but the town derives great benefit from its market and fairs, which are well attended by dealers in cattle. Two turnpike roads are projected, which promise much advantage to the inhabitants. One is intended to open an eligible communication with Buckingham, and the other with Woodstock.

Bicester is one of the parishes on which Dr. Kennet * has bestowed unwearied attention. We are indebted to his "Parochial Antiquities," for the substance of the following observations. Tradition, and some slender authority, report that St. Birinus bore a particular relation to the town of Bicester; which from him, it is said, was called Birini-castrum, or Birincestre. Others argue that the town takes its name from a small rivulet called the *Bure*, which rises in the neighbourhood. Plot believes that it gains its appellation from the Forest of Bernwood, "upon the edge whereof it was seated." It does not seem likely that so trifling a stream as the Bure should impart a name to a settlement of consequence; and the nearest part of Bernwood Forest must have been three miles distant when the town was founded. Kennet is inclined to think the name derived from the Saxon term signifying castrum primarium, or principal fort; this town being, probably, a place of the greatest strength and hope to the West Saxons against the Britons or Mercians. It certainly was, in the age of Birinus, a frontier garrison; and was possibly built about his time, and by his advice, from the ruins of Alchester.

The old town of Berincester was first built on the west part, or in King's end. This ancient town is believed to have been destroyed

* Dr. Kennet wrote his Parochial Antiquities while resident in the small neighbouring village termed Ambrosden, of which parish he was vicar. Sir Gregory Page Turner had a seat at Ambrosden, now pulled down.

destroyed by the Danes, though authors differ as to the period.

Gilbert Basset, Baron of Headington, founded here a priory of canons regular of St. Augustine, dedicated to St. Edburg. *

In the close vicinity of Bicester is a spring, called St. Edburg's Well: a spot, no doubt, of great resort with the superstitious of past ages. This was, by long neglect, stopped up in the seventeenth century; but the summer of 1666 proving unusually dry, the head of the spring was opened and cleansed, when such a sudden and great supply of water gushed forth, that, certainly, says Kennet, "had the old adorers now lived they would have termed it another miracle."

The remembrance of the saint is, likewise, preserved in *Edburg-Balk*. This is a corruption of St. Edburg's *Walk*, which was a neat and frequented path to the well from the priory. In a record of about the 10th of Edward I. this is termed St. Edburg's green way.

Richard II. in the first of his reign, granted to Sir John De Worth, Lord of the manor of *Bigenhull*, the privileges of a weekly market, and one yearly fair. Bigenhull † was a small village which stood on the site of the present King's end of the town. The Bigenhull market was discontinued in the reign of Henry VI. In the 19th of that king, a market was granted to the *Bury End*, which from that circumstance obviously acquired its present appellation.

The customary oblations at Bicester, about the year 1212, are curious. These were one penny for a burial, and the same for a marriage, or for churching a woman. The altar, or sacrament

 offerings,

* Valued, at the Dissolution, according to Dugdale, at 147l. 2s. 10d. per ann.; according to Speed at 167l. 2s. 10d. There were at least seven English saints of the name of Edburg; this to whom the priory church of Bicester was dedicated was St. Edburg of Aylesbury.

† An allusion to the ancient name of this manor is still retained in a single dwelling, termed Bignal House, on the north of the contiguous village of Great Chesterton, but in the Lordship of Bicester King's end.

offerings were threepence at Christmas, two pence at Easter, and a penny at the two other principal feasts; besides offerings at confessions.

The population of Bicester was returned, in 1811, at 2,146. The same returns to Parliament state the number of houses to be 428.

At the distance of one mile and a half on the south-west of Bicester are the faint traces of ALCHESTER, a city that was of a square form, and divided by four streets. Richard of Cirencester, in his Itinerary, terms Alchester *Alauna*, and makes it a city of the Dobuni. Camden seems of opinion that the word merely signifies *old Town;* but the author of the manuscript at the end of Kennet, would derive the appellation from Allectus, who slew the Emperor Carausius, and usurped his honours. Dr. Stukeley warmly supports this latter notion; and is desirous of finding an allusion to Carausius himself, in the neighbouring district termed *Caversfield.*

The story of Carausius and Allectus is briefly this:—The guard of the British sea coasts against northern Pirates was, by the Romans, committed to a standing admiral; and this command, about the third year of Dioclesian, was bestowed on Carausius, a native of Britain or Ireland. He availed himself of his opportunities to insinuate to his countrymen that if they would receive him for king he would expel their foreign masters. On this he was admitted to the government, and renounced allegiance to the Romans. He maintained his elevation for seven years, but was slain by Allectus, his friend, about the year 292, who usurped the supreme power. The author of the MS. at the end of Kennet, supposes that Allectus fixed his chief seat on this spot, and called it, after his own name, *Allecti Castrum;* since Alchester, or Aldcester. The battle in which the rebel chief slew Carausius he informs us was fought more than two miles from Alchester, on the field now called Caversfield.

It will be seen that this conjecture is ingenious, rather than probable. The author has no historical support, and depends

ENSHAM CHURCH & CROSS,
Oxfordshire

chiefly for argument on a presumed affinity of names. It is justly observed by Gough "that the frequent use of the name of Aldchester, for Roman stations in England, is a full confutation of the notion that this peculiarly belonged to Allectus."

Kennet, with more judgment, supposes Alchester to have been one of the garrisoned places constructed by Plautius, as securities to the newly conquered country, after his early triumphs over the Britons. This station probably acted as the frontier of the Dobuni and Cattieuchlani; and thence the army of Plautius might readily pursue the Britons to Buckingham, or the adjacent banks of the Ouse.

The area has, for many ages, been subject to the inroads of the plough; and numerous coins and curious relics have been found at various times. The author of the manuscript before quoted* notices the following, among other discoveries: "In the year 1616, an earthen pot, full of brass money, bearing the stamp, [illegible], and picture, some of Carausius, some of Allectus, was found under the root of a tree in Steeple Claydon parish, by the great pond there. In the midst of that ploughed field, Alchester, a husbandman, ploughing very deep, lighted on a rough [illegible] stone, which was found to be hollow within, and seemed [illegible]ted together. On being opened nothing was found but a [illegible] glass, some three quarters full of ashes, close stopped with lead over the mouth." These the author supposes to [illegible] the ashes of Carausius, slain hard by!" This writer exhibits more interest when he proceeds to observe that "Alchester [illegible] to have been a walled town. In the front was built a [illegible], or watch-tower, the ruins whereof still appear (1622). [illegible] of meadow, where, in our days, have been dug up much [illegible] money, brick, and tile; and a pavement of curious wrought [illegible]

[illegible]ny coins, and fragments of building, have been discovered at [illegible]chester, in more recent periods.

Two neighbouring villages maintain a connection in their names with

* This MS. bears the date of 1622.

with the desolated garrison. GREAT CHESTERTON, which lies contiguous to the ancient city, probably sprang from its ruins; and, perhaps, we may safely admit that WENDLEBURY derives its name from the Vandals, who were certainly employed as auxiliaries by the Romans in the decay of the empire, and who might have their station in this place *. The Akeman Street passed Alchester on the north. The church of the present village of Chesterton stands immediately contiguous to its track.

Pursuing the traces of this antient road, we arrive, when five miles distant from Bicester, at KIRKLINGTON, formerly a place of much political consequence, from its situation as a frontier town between the kingdoms of Mercia and the West Saxons. In the year 977 was held a great council, or synod, at which were present King Edward the Martyr, and St. Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury. Some writers place this synod at Kirtling, or, as it is often termed, Catledge, in Cambridgeshire; but others contend that it was held in this village; and they observe, in support of their opinion, that Sideman, bishop of Devonshire, dying at this synod, willed to be buried in his own church at Crediton, but King Edward and Archbishop Dunstan ordered that he should be buried in the church of Abingdon, and he was accordingly laid on the north side, in the porch of St. Paul. It was, likewise, as a mark of kindness, allowed by the council to be lawful for the country people to go in pilgrimage to St. Mary of Abingdon. It is contended that Bishop Sideman was buried at St. Mary's on account of the comparative contiguity of that church; and it is remarked that the people of Cambridgeshire would receive no peculiar favour in being permitted to seek religious benefit from a pilgrimage to so distant a spot.

The manor of Kirklington, according to Plot, was formerly part of the possessions of the Kings of England; from whom it came

* It is remarked by Gough, as a curious circumstance, that there is a Roman station, and a "Vandlebury," in the neighbourhood of both Universities.

came to Henry, son of Edmund Crouchback, Earl of Lancaster, and father to Henry, the first Duke of Lancaster; by whose daughter Blanch it proceeded to John of Gaunt. This intelligence Plot professes to derive from an old charter, then in the possession of Sir Thomas Chamberleyne, "Lord of the Town;" but Dugdale, who traces the descent of the property from John de Hunetz, Constable of Normandy in the reign of King John, through the line of the Bassets, observes that Thomas of Woodstock, sixth son of Edward III. died possessed of the manor in the 20th of Richard II.

The property is now vested in Sir Henry W. Dashwood, Bart. who has here a fine seat, encompassed by an extensive park. This manor was valued, in the year 1420, at 13l. 6s. 8d. and *seven Beeves.*

In the contiguous parish of BLETCHINGDON, Richard de Prestcote held one hide of land, by the petty serjeantry of carrying a shield of brawn to the King, as often as he hunted in the forest of Cornbury. The manor was long vested in the family of D'Amorie. The advowson of Bletchingdon church escheated to the crown in the reign of Henry III. by way of forfeiture, incurred by two brothers, Richard and William Gravill; and was given to Queen's College, by Edward III. at the request of the founder. In the year 1665 the shock of an earthquake was felt in this village. Bletchingdon was the birth-place of Dr. Daniel Fairclough, better known by his paternal name of Featly. He was the son of John Featly, Cook of Corpus Christi College, and was a writer of some eminence in opposition to the Roman Catholics. Dr. Fairclough suffered much in the civil contests of the 17th century, and died of a dropsy, supposed to be the consequence of long imprisonment, in 1644. Arthur Annesley, Esq. has a desirable residence on the northern side of the village.

ISLIP, distant five miles from Oxford, claims little consideration from its modern aspect, but is memorable as the place which

afforded birth to King Edward the Confessor. The palace of his father, King Ethelred, is supposed to have stood to the north east of the village. Plot says that some footsteps of the edifice may still be discovered; but no traces are now to be seen. In this direction, however, is a close termed the Court-Close; from which, in the early part of the last century, several loads of lead were dug, which lay in irregular masses, as if melted. Still, allowing that a large building probably once occupied this site, it will be seen that the term Court-Close is no safe authority for concluding that this building was the palace of Ethelred; as such a term might be bestowed on the appurtenance to a mere ordinary manorial mansion.

The Charter of Restoration of the Abbey of Westminster, in which Edward gives to his new church the town of Islip, proves the fact of his birth at this place. Edward styles Islip "a small village," and spells the name *Githslepe*. The chapel in which it has been supposed he was christened, stood at a small distance from the church. This building was maintained in decent preservation by the monks of Westminster till their dissolution in 1540; and was not desecrated till the usurpation of Cromwell. In the 18th century it was converted to a barn. Every lingering fragment was destroyed before the year 1783. When last inspected by Warton, the roof was of thatch, but the stone walls still retained traces of an oblong window at the east end. The occurrences connected with the presumed font of Edward's baptism, we have noticed in our mention of Kiddington.

Every rational enquirer must remain in doubt, as to whether Islip has cause to take pride from its regal native. Edward appears to have possessed great legislative wisdom, and to have studied invariably the solid welfare of his subjects. We discover little of weakness, till the priests meddle with his character. His *ungallant* propensities are offensive to recollection. It is obvious that even fanciful piety had nothing to do with his abstinence from the arms of his fair Queen, Editha, the daughter of

Earl

Earl Godwin.* Political hatred led him to neglect the blandishments of connubial love; and political fear, perhaps, induced him to become the accuser of his parent. But, in forming an estimate of the character of a sovereign at so remote a period, we merely exercise our ingenuity on the colours perceptible in the chief pageant of a fable; for the interested and the poetical combine to render ambiguous history the rival of romance.

MIDDLETON STONEY, three miles from Bicester, on the north west, is ornamented by the handsome seat of the Earl of Jersey. His lordship has lately enlarged the house, and has made many tasteful alterations in the gardens and grounds. The manor was part of the estates of the Longespes, Earls of Salisbury; and, on the failure of male issue in that family, it was carried, in marriage, to Henry de Lacy, Earl of Lincoln, by Margaret, the sole daughter and heir. The latter earl obtained from Edward I. the grant of a weekly market, (long since disused,) and a yearly fair. In this parish was a castle, supposed to have been erected on the ruins of a Saxon work. The structure belonged to the Camvils, in the reign of King John; and remained many years after most other castles in the county were demolished.

SOMERTON,

* Few persons, unconnected with the busy parts of history, are more interesting than Queen Editha. Condemned to use the same apartment with a disdainful husband for many years, she endeavoured to blunt the edge of scorn only by the practice of humility. Her footsteps were enveloped by Mashes more dangerous than the fiery ordeal to which Queen Emma was subjected; yet modesty and integrity enabled her to tread right forwards, and to escape every snare. The passage of Ingulphus respecting this virgin queen is so forcibly descriptive of her simplicity of manners and accomplishments of mind, that we cannot refrain from quoting the translation of it: "When I was a schoolboy I frequently met the Queen. On these occasions she would stop me, and examine me in the Classics, and pose me, with wondrous readiness, in my grammar and logic; and then generally ordered a little maid who waited on her to give me three or four pieces of money."

SOMERTON, about three miles south by east, of the town of Deddington, was possessed by the Arsic family. The estate was forfeited to the crown in the reign of John, by Robert de Arsic, who sided with the barons against that king. A part, however, was retained by the family, of whom it was bought by Grey, Archbishop of York. That powerful prelate bestowed the property on Robert Grey, of Rotherfield, and his heirs, who held it under the name of a moiety of the manor of Somerton, by the service of keeping Dover Castle. It was carried, by a female of the Greys, to the family of D'Eincourt; and afterwards formed a part of the large possessions in this county of Jasper, Duke of Bedford.

Dr. Juxton, afterwards Archbishop of Canterbury, held the living of this place. In the church are buried several of the Fermors of Tusmore.

The manor of SOULDERN, was purchased in the reign of Henry III. by Ralph de Bray, of Philip Basset, for forty marks of silver. In the church are buried several of the family of Gough; among whom are Ferdinando, who died in 1664; and Richard his father, who died in 1638. *

TUSMORE is the very desirable residence of William Fermor, Esq. whose family have long flourished on this spot. Dr. Plot mentions several circumstances creditable to the taste and ingenuity of the representative of this antient family, at the period of his visit to Tusmore. Many Roman coins have been found here.

The neighbouring district termed *Bayard's Green*, was one of the three places appointed by King Richard I. for the first authorised tournaments that were held in England. * The lion-hearted King retained to the last a predilection for his native

* Several of this family are, likewise, interred in the church of Upper Heyford, or Heyford Warren (Warine.)

* This tournament is mentioned in a letter from Richard I. to his attached friend, Hubert, Archbishop of Canterbury.

native county; and the number of cross-legged effigies connected with Oxfordshire families prove the ardour with which the gentry entered into his romantic views. A second tournament was held on Bayard's Green, in the 33d of Henry III.

END OF OXFORDSHIRE.

A

LIST

OF THE PRINCIPAL

BOOKS, MAPS, AND VIEWS,

THAT HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED IN

Illustration of the History, Topography, Antiquities, &c. of the COUNTY OF OXFORD.

THIS County has to regret the want of a regular historian.

In the year 1677, Dr. Plot published a "Natural History of Oxfordshire, being an Essay towards the Natural History of England." A second edition, with additions and corrections, was printed at Oxford, in 1705, fol. after the Doctor's death, by his son-in-law, Mr. Burman, Fellow of University College. This work touches very slightly on the Antiquities of the County. Plot was evidently a man of some learning and ingenuity, but a want of judgment pervades the whole work. He sank the dupe of nearly every circumstance that wore a marvellous aspect. Mysterious prognostics of death; fantastical operations of presumed demons; and the blessings arising from the royal touch, to those afflicted with the evil; occupy too many of his pages, and cause the reader to look with suspicion on the intelligence conveyed in more creditable sections.

The agricultural state of the county is chiefly indebted for illustration to the "View of the Agriculture of Oxfordshire, drawn up for the Board of Agriculture, &c. by the Secretary of the Board," (Mr. Arthur Young.)

A translation of Domesday, for Oxfordshire, has been published by the Rev. Mr. Bandwen.

Bishop Kennet, in his excellent work intituled, "Parochial Antiquities," has entered fully into the history of the town of Bicester, and the neighbouring village of Ambrosden. The object of Dr. Kennet was the illustration of his immediate neighbourhood, while resident at Ambrosden; but his book contains hints of information relative to many other Oxfordshire parishes; and no hint from his pen could fail of being valuable. Very few writers have reared so estimable a fabric on so apparently hopeless a foundation.*

* Gough says, in his British Topography, "that he has a copy of Bishop Kennet's work, with large MS. additions by the author." But this valuable copy is not among the books bequeathed to the Bodleian library by Mr. Gough.

Among the "Occasional Remarks" prefixed to the account of Fairford Windows, published with Roper's life of More, are some observations on *Dorchester*, *Bensington*, and *Ewelm*. Also in the Preface to Hemingford, p. 57—69.

In regard to Thame school, there was printed, as it appears for private use, the following thin folio: "Schola Thamensis ex fundatione Johannis Williams militis domini Williams de Thame, 1575. God save the Queen." This book contains the indentures, and deeds of settlement; the statutes, and the evidences of the school and almshouse. "The only copy," says Mr. Gough, "that I ever saw was in Mr. West's library, now in the King's. There is another in the Bodleian."

"Tragi-comœdia, being a brief relation of the strange, and wonderfull hand of God discovered at *Witney*, in the Comedy acted there, Feb. 3, where there were some slaine, many hurt, with severall other remarkable passages; together with what was preached in three Sermons on that occasion, from Rom. 1. 18. both which may serve as some Cneck to the growing Atheisme of the present age. By John Rowe, of C. C. C. in Oxford, Lecturer in the Town of Witney. Oxf. 1652."

"An answer to a scandalous Pamphlet, entituled the Present state of the Free School at Witney, in Oxfordshire, &c. by John Goole, A.M. Vicar of Eynsham, and Master of the Free School of Witney, in the county of Oxford." Oxf. 1721. 8vo.

"The Contract violated, or the hasty Marriage. By John Goole, M. A. Master of the Free School of Witney, and Vicar of Eynsham," &c. This relates to a marriage between the author and a daughter of Dr. Hudson.

"Strange and wonderful News from *Bisciter*, a Town in Oxfordshire: being a full and true Account of a terrible Tempest of lightning, rain, hail, and thunder, which happened there the twentyeth Day of April last past, and continued for several hours; burnt much Corn, some barns and outhouses, and kill'd many Cattel; also spoyl'd several Persons, and had like to have consumed the whole Town. 1678." 4to.

The "Blenheim Guide," by the Rev. Dr. Mavor, is one of the most elegant and comprehensive works of the kind ever published, and contains many particulars relating to the borough of Woodstock.

The "Custome of the Mannor of Woodstock," is published in the preface to the 8th Volume of Leland's Itinerary. A transcript of a roll relating to this manor, t. Edw. I. is at the end of Hearne's edition of Robert de Avesbury.

"A short survey of Woodstock" is printed with "The Just Devil of Woodstock, or a true Narrative of the several apparitions, the frights, and punishments that were inflicted upon the rumpish Commissioners," &c. by Widdowes.

"W. Whately's

"W. Whately's Sermon, and account of the fire at Banbury, which burned 103 houses, &c. London 1630." 4to.

"Crouch Hill, a descriptive poem, with some account of the siege of Banbury Castle," by Mr. Rusher.

"God's Terrible Judgement in Oxfordshire; a true relation of a woman at Atherbury, having used divers horrible wishes and imprecations, was suddenly burnt to ashes on one side of her body, when there was no fire near her. 1677," 4to.

"Memoirs of Osney Abbey, near Oxford, collected from the most authentic authors," &c. by John Swaine, Esq. (of Windsor) 1769.

A discourse about Fair Rosamond, and the Nunnery of Godstowe, with occasional notes about Binsey; written by T. Hearne, 1718. Spicil. ad G. Neubrig. p. 730.

In the Gentleman's Magazine, Vol. XLI. p. 285. is a curious article on the subject of Godstow, communicated by Mr. Gough; and, in the same work, for August, 1787, is a transcript from the Chartulary, or Ledger Book, of Godstow Nunnery.

Hearne wrote "A Discourse concerning the *Stunsfield* tessellated pavement, &c." which is prefixed to Vol. VIII. of Leland's Itinerary. John Pointer, M. A. attacked Hearne's opinions, in "An account of a Roman pavement lately found at Stunsfield, in Oxfordshire, proved to be 1400 years old. Oxf. 1713." 8vo.

The following pamphlets appeared in the 17th century, concerning operations in the civil war.

"Exceeding good News from Oxfordshire; being a true relation of the manner of the apprehending of the Earl of Berkshire, Sir John Curzon, Sir Robert Dormer, and divers other cavaliers, in Oxfordshire, by Colonell Hampden and Colonell Goodwyn, &c. 1642." 4to.

"His Highness Prince Rupert's late beating up the rebels quarters at Postcomb and Chimner, in Oxfordshire; and his victory in Chalgrove Field, on Sunday morning, June 18, 1643. Whereunto is added Sir John Werie's expedition to West Wickham, the Sunday after, June 25, 1643." 4to.

"The Levellers (falsly so called) vindicated; or the case of the twelve troops which (by treachery in a treaty) was lately surprised and defeated at Burford, truly stated, and offered to the judgment of all unbyassed and wel-minded people, especially of the army, their fellow souldiers, under the conduct of the Lord Fairfax." 4to.

The most important publications connected with the City of Oxford are,

"The ancient and present state of the City of Oxford, containing an account of its Foundation, Antiquity, Situation, Suburbs, division by Wards, Walls, Castle, Fairs, Religious Houses, Abbeys, St. Frideswede's; Churches, as well those destroyed as the present, with their monumental inscriptions; Mayors, Members of Parliament, &c. The

 whole

whole chiefly collected by Mr. Anthony à Wood, with additions by the Rev. Sir J. Peshall, Bart. London 1773." This work is embellished by a plan of the City, engraved by Longmate, in 1773, under the direction of Gwyn; and by views of St. Mary's, All Saints, and St. Giles's.

Hearne printed, in the appendix to the Annales de Dunstaple, No. VII and VIII. a copy of John and Henry IIId's Charter of Liberties and Privileges to this City, from the register of Oseney Abbey, copied by Mr. Hare among his MSS. in the library at Caius College, Cambridge.

A Charter of Henry to the Burgesses of Oxford is printed, from the Cott. lib. Claud. D. II. at the end of Lib. Nig. Scac. II. 819. 1772.

Other particulars concerning Oxford, Ib. Append. No. VI. 597. 613. 683. 1st edit.

"The Passage of the Treatie for the surrender of Oxford to Sir T. Fairfax, &c, 1646."

"Articles concluded and agreed on for the surrender of Oxford and Farringdon to Sir T. Fairfax, 24th of June, 1646. Lond. 1646." 4to.

Dr. Birch published in the Philosophical Transactions, Vol. LI. p. 699, an account of the black assize, from Merton College Registers, with remarks.

At the end of Boyle's History of the Air, 1692. 8vo. is a register of the changes of air observed at Oxford, from June 24, 1660. to March 28, 1677.

The first general account of the University of Oxford is contained in some rhyming verses by Trevytlan, or Trevytham, a Franciscan Friar, t. Hen. VI. published by Hearne at the end of "Historia vitæ Ric. II. Ox. 1729."

In the year 1564, the public orator of Cambridge expatiated, with some extravagance, on the presumed superior antiquity of that University, in an harangue delivered before Queen Elizabeth. This induced Thomas Key, or Cay, Master of University College, to compose a piece in which he endeavoured to prove that the University of Oxford was founded by certain Greek professors who accompanied Brute to England. Key's work was first printed, with an answer written by Dr. Caius, of Caius College, Cambridge, by Bynneman, 1568, 4to. and again in 1574, under the title of, Assertio Antiquitatis Oxoniensis Academiæ incerto authore ejusdem gymnasii: ad illustriss. Reginam anno 1566. Jam nuper ad verbum cum priore edita; cum fragmento Oxoniensis Historiolæ. Additis castigationibus authoris marginalibus ad asteriscum positis. Inter quas libri titulus est, qui ante castigationem (quam editionem secundam dicimus) nullus erat. Omnia prouteb ipsis authoris exemplaribus accepimus, bona fide commissa formulis."—Hearne republished it with his "Vindiciæ Antiquitatis Academiæ Oxoniensis contra Joannem Caium Cantabrigiensem," from

from the original MS. with additions to the "Assertio," by the author, and other copious papers. Ox. 1730.

A Discourse of the Antiquity of the University of Oxford, by way of "Letter to a friend, written by Dr. Hutten, Canon of Christ Church, 1599." printed at the end of Hearne's Textus Roffensis, gives an account of the City and University, but not of the Colleges particularly.

"Nicolai Fierberti, Oxoniensis in Anglia Academiæ descriptio: ad perillustrem et reverendiss. D. D. Bernardinum Paulinum, S. D. N. Clementis VIII. datarium. Romæ, 1602." 12mo.—This curious tract was reprinted in Leland's Itinerary, Vol. IX.

"Bryan Twyne," says Gough, "was the first who treated the affairs of this University like a professed Antiquary, for which he was rewarded with the place of keeper of its archives. His Antiquitatis Academiæ Oxoniensis Apologia, in tres libros divisa, was printed at Oxf. in 1608. 4to. Hearne boasts that he has defended the antiquity of Oxford with irrefragable and undeniable proofs, yet Twyne allowed the authority of that MS. which makes against it."

Twyne was followed by Scot, Langbaine, and Fulman; but the labour of each was eclipsed by that of Anthony à Wood, whose "Historia et Antiquitates Universitatis Oxoniensis duobus voluminibus comprehensæ. Oxon. è Theatro Sheldoniano. 1674." fol. was published at the expense of the University. The first volume contains the Antiquities of the University, in chronological order, to 1646; the second those of the Colleges.

"The History of the University of Oxford, to the death of William the Conqueror." Oxf. 1772. 8vo. is Wood's work published by Sir John Peshall, who afterwards published the "History of the University of Oxford, from the death of William the Conqueror to the demise of Q. Elizabeth. Oxf. 1773." 4to.

William of Worcester, who was educated at Hart Hall, drew up a history of the learned men educated at Oxford, of which Twyne published an extract in his "Apologia;" but the great historian of the members of the University is Anthony à Wood, whose work is intituled "Athenæ Oxonienses. An exact history of all the writers and Bishops who have had their education in the most ancient and famous University of Oxford, from the 15th year of King Henry the seventh, Dom. 1500. to the end of the year 1690; representing the birth, fortune, preferment and death of all those authors and prelates; the great accidents of their lives, and the fate and character of their writings. To which are added the Fasti, or Annals of the said University, for the same time."

The "Athenæ" were reprinted in 1721, in two Volumes, folio, continued down to Wood's death, 1695, from the copy now deposited in the Ashmolean Museum, in which the author had, with his own hand, inserted a great number of additions and amendments; and 500 new lives were communicated to the editors by Bishop Tanner, to whom Wood on his death-bed bequeathed it.

It is to be regretted that Wood's great Biographical performance is much debased by prejudice and party-feeling; but many particulars of explanation may be expected from "A new edition of the work, with additions, and a continuation, by Philip Bliss, Fellow of St. John's College, Oxford." The first Volume is already before the public.

"The ancient and present state of the University of Oxford, &c. &c." by John Ayliffe, LL.D. and Fellow of New College, is chiefly compiled from Wood; but Dr. Ayliffe unfortunately added some remarks of his own, with congenial acerbity, for which he was degraded, and expelled the University.

Gutch, likewise, published a compilation from Wood.

Salmon, author of the Modern History, printed, in 1744. an octavo Volume, containing an "account of the present state of the University of Oxford," together with some notice of several places in the county.

A more satisfactory work has appeared, under the title of "A History of the Colleges, Halls, and Public Buildings attached to the University of Oxford, including the lives of the Founders, by Alexander Chalmers, F. S. A. illustrated by a series of Engravings."

Five numbers have appeared of an extensive work, by Ackermann, intituled "The History of the University of Oxford, illustrated by upwards of eighty highly finished and coloured Engravings, fac similes of the drawings, representing exterior and interior views of the Colleges, Halls, Public Buildings, and Costume, as well as of the more striking parts of the City." The work is to be completed in twenty numbers.

Oxoniana, published by Phillips, in Four Volumes, contains many curious circumstances relating to the University and City, partly extracted from MSS. in the public libraries, and partly copied from scarce books.

There are several *Guides*, or *Pocket Companions*, to the University;* the last of which was published in 1812.

A *University Calendar*, which contains lists of the public officers; the Principals and Fellows of the respective Colleges; and a variety of satisfactory particulars connected with the University, is published annually.

"Balliofergus, or a Commentary upon the Foundation, Founders, and Affaires, of Balliol College, gathered out of the records thereof, and other antiquities, with a brief description of eminent persons, who have been formerly of the same house. Whereunto is added an exact catalogue of all the heads of the same Colledge never yet exhibited by any;

* In ridicule of such works, Warton published "A Companion to the Guide, and a Guide to the Companion: being a complete supplement to all the accounts of Oxford hitherto published," &c.—This little tract contains some humourous remarks, but appears, on the whole, to be unworthy the time bestowed on it by so elegant a scholar.

say; together with two tables, one of endowments, the other of miscellanies. By Henry Savage, master of the said Colledge. Oxf. 1668." 4to.

A catalogue of the pictures in Christ Church library, the benefaction of the late General Guise.

Notes concerning the foundation of Merton College are at the end of Hearne's Textus Roffensis, p. 408.

Some account of the effects of a storm of Lightning and Thunder, in Pembroke College, June 3, 1765, is in the Philosophical Transactions, Vol. LV. art. 30.

"The Annals of University College, proving William of Durham the true founder: and answering all their arguments who ascribe it to King Alfred. By William Smith, rector of Melsonby, and above twelve years Senior Fellow of that Society. Newcastle, 1728." 8vo.

The case of Worcester College, or Gloucester Hall changed into Worcester College, was printed in a broad sheet, Lond. 1702. A second edition in octavo was intituled "The Case of Worcester College, as it was presented to the Members of the House of Commons." Both were written by Benjamin Woodroffe, D. D. principal of Gloucester Hall.

"The case of Gloucester Hall, in Oxford, rectifying the false stating thereof by Dr. Woodroffe, Oxon." 4to. This was written by Dr. Baron, master of Balliol College.

The *Body of Statutes* was drawn up by Bryan Twyne, and translated into Latin by Dr. Peter Turner, Savilian Professor. This translation, with large additions, and a preface by the Professor, was first printed at Oxford, 1634. folio.—An abstract, for the use of the members, delivered to them on their matriculation, has been several times reprinted.

PRINTS AND MAPS.

Views of several buildings are inserted in Kennet's Parochial Antiquities; and there are a few Prints, relating to buildings, among the illustrations of Plot's Natural History.

In Stukeley's Itin. Cur. II. Plates 5, 6, 7, 8, represent Alchester (Alauna) Thame (Tamese) and Banbury (Branavis) 1724.

Ditchley, drawn and engraved by Sullivan.

Messrs. Buck engraved W. view of Godstow Nunnery, 1729; E. view of Eynsham Abbey; S. W. Cold Norton; S. W. Clattercot; N. Minster Lovel; Priories; and N. E. of Broughton Castle.

Three Plans, and three Fronts, of Blenheim House, Vitr. Brit. I. 55—62.

N. and N. W. views of the House and High Lodge, by Boydell.

"The oldest *view* of Oxford extant is, probably, that by Hoefnagel, in Braunii civitates, 1572."*

* Gough.

A view by Buck, 1781.

A good view of the High Street, by Turner.

One set, six views, of Oxford, by Malton.

Magdalen College, Bridge, and Tower.

Magdalen College old quadrangle, drawn and published by Buckler.

Buckler has, likewise, published, The Front of Magdalen College Chapel; The Front of Christ Church; Christ Church Cathedral; The Front of New College Chapel.

Bibliotheca Radcliviana; Plans, with explanations, &c, by Gibbs.

A View and Plan of All Saints' Church, by Burghers.

A View connected with Oxford is regularly given in the Oxford Almanac.

The oldest *Plan* of the City of Oxford extant, is that included in Ralph Aggas's Plan of the University, 1578, or 1579.

Saxton's Map of this County, including Bucks and Berkshire, was made 1574, but wants the Hundreds, which are supplied, with a Plan of the City, and Arms of the Colleges, in Speed's Map, 1610.

A new actual survey was published 1715. by Overton, with views of the Public Schools, Stonesfield Pavement, the City from the E, and Blenheim House and Bridge.

Thomas Jeffereys engraved, 1769. A new Map of this county, from a scale of one inch to a mile.

But the most satisfactory Map is that by Richard Davis, Topographer to His Majesty, published in 1797, on the scale of two inches to a mile. An attentive examination of the county has proved to us the value of this publication, and we are pleased to find that fresh copies, with corrections, as to the change of proprietors and occupiers, may be speedily expected.

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TO

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RUTLANDSHIRE.

THIS is well known to be the smallest County in England; but Camden seems inclined to make it appear even less, for he calls it by a kind of double diminutive, "*Angliæ Provinciola minima.*" *Fuller*, in his quaint style, says, that indeed it is but the pestil of a lark, which is better than a quarter of some bigger bird, having the most cleanly profit in it; no place, so fair for the rider, being more fruitful for the abider therein *.

The name of this county has long been a matter of debate with topographers: and Fuller is of opinion, banishing the fable of King Rott †, and their fond conceit who will have Rutland so called, from *Roet*, the French word for a wheel, from the rotundity thereof (being in form almost exactly orbicular) it is so termed, *quasi Redland;* for as if nature kept a dye vat therein, a reddish tincture discoloureth the earth, stones, yea, the very fleeces of the sheep feeding thereon. If (he adds) the Rabbins' observation be true, who distinguish between *Arets*, the general element of the earth, and *Adamah*, red ground, from which Adam was taken,

* Sancroft, in his Collectanea Curiosa, quotes Fuller's "Observations of the Shires," in which he personifies the counties, and calls Rutland "the dwarf."

† Wright says, "concerning the etymology, there goes a tale of one Rut, who rid round this county in a day.

taken and named, making the latter the former refined, Rutland's soil, on the same reason, may lay claim to more than ordinary purity, and perfection. But this ingenious writer seems to have decided too hastily, and without examining the soil himself, for then he would have ascertained that the red soil, or "raddle," as it is called by some, and "keel" by others, is only to be found in the southern parts of the county about Glaiston, and in some parts of Okeham Vale; and if we were to hazard a conjecture, where so many learned men have failed, it would be to hint, that the district called "Rotelonde," before the Norman Conquest, was much smaller than the present county, and confined principally to the vale of Catmose, and the deep valley South east from Uppingham, together with Deepdale on the forest of Liefield, &c. from whence it might have been called the *Rutt* land, or land consisting entirely of *deep vallies*.

There is, indeed, a topographical objection, in part to this etymology; for Gough is of opinion, that the whole of the ancient *Rotelonde*, with the exception of *Ridlington*, was on the north side of the river Guash, and confined between that river and the present boundary of the county of Nottingham. We are told in Camden, that the southern parts of the present county are to be found in Domesday book in Wichealai Hundred*, under Northamptonshire; the others in Northamptonshire, the sheriff of which county, by statute of the 31st of Henry III. was appointed Escheator for this. To this, however, Mr. Gough adds, that the name of Roteland makes a distinct title in Domesday (fol. 293,) and comprehends the two wapentakes of Alfnodeston, now Alstoe, and Martinesleie, now Martinsley; the first of which included two hundreds, and lay half in the wapentake of Thurgarton, and half in Broxton, both in Nottinghamshire.

In the reign of Henry VIII. we are told "the Shire of Rutland lyeth in a manner, as it were, in a roundel, and lyeth partly upon

* Wicelses, or Wichelsea, now *Witchley*, was ther a wapentake of Northamptonshire.

on Wiland water from Staunford, to the very bridge of Rokingham." *

Wright tells us, † that its *dimensions* do not exceed twelve miles in any one place; it is now, however, more accurately known to be in length eighteen miles from north to south, and in breadth from east to west, fifteen; its circumference being nearly sixty miles. This gives an area, according to the statement drawn up for the House of Commons in 1805, of two hundred square statute miles, equal to one hundred and twenty-eight thousand statute acres, having a proportion of eighty-two persons per acre, or 16,356 in all.

Its *Modern Division* consists of five hundreds; viz. Wrangdyke, East, Alstoe, Okeham Soke, and Martinsley. It has only two market towns, *Okeham*, or Oakham, and *Uppingham*; but contains forty-nine parishes, being more, in proportion to its size, than any other county in the kingdom.

Notwithstanding the comparative small size of this county, it has always been considered a valuable one. *Drayton*, in his Poly-Olbion, particularly addresses it with reference to its superiority over, or at least equality with, any other county in England.

"Love not thyself the less, although the least thou art,
What thou in greatness want'st, wise Nature doth impart
In goodness of thy soil; and more delicious mould,
Surveying all this isle, the sun did ne'er behold.
Bring forth that British vale, and be it ne'er so rare,
But *Catmus* with that vale for richness may compare.
What forest nymph is found, how brave soe'er she be;
But *Lyfield* shews herself as brave a nymph as she?
What river ever rose from bank or swelling hill,
Than Rutland's wandering *Wash*, a delicater rill?
Small shire that cans't produce to thy proportion good,
One vale of special name, one forest, and one flood!

 Oh!

* Leland's Itinerary, Vol. I. 25.
† Wright's History of Rutland.

Oh! *Catmus*, thou fair vale, come on in grass and corn,
That *Beaver* * ne'er be said thy sisterhood to scorn,
And let thy *Ocham* boast to have no little grace,
That her the pleased Fates did in thy bosom place!
And *Lyfield*, as thou art a forest, live so free,
That ev'ry forest nymph may praise the sports in thee;
And down to *Welland's* course, Oh! *Wash*, run ever clear,
To honour, and to be much honour'd by this Shire."

The HISTORY of this county, in the earliest times, can scarcely be separated from that of the surrounding districts. In the British times it was part of that nation, or people, whom the Romans called "Coritani," from the ancient British word *corani*, or *coraniaid*, a word indeed of doubtful etymology, but supposed to have been brought into Britain by some early invaders, who, under the name of *Corinians*, are noticed in the Welsh Legends †, and are recorded as forming one division of the three great evils that came into Britain, and never went away again.

After the Roman Legions became possessed of the greatest part of the kingdom, this district being subdued by Publius Ostorius under the Emperor Claudius, Rutland was included in their division of *Flavia Cæsariensis*.

During the Saxon Heptarchy, between 582 and 827, it formed part of the kingdom of Mercia, under eighteen successive monarchs; and, after the union of all the kingdom under one monarch, it seems to have been the property of the Crown; for Edward the Confessor bequeathed it to his queen, Edith, and after her demise to Westminster Abbey. His will, which is still extant, says, "I will that after the decease of Queen Eadgith, my consort, Rotelond, with all its appurtenances, be given to my monastery of St. Peter, and be surrendered, without delay, to the abbot and monks there serving God, for ever."

So anxious indeed was Edward to secure this obituary gift to the monastery, that he confirmed the donation by a kind of anterior

* Belvoir Vale, in Notts. and Lincoln. † Vide the Triades.

terior deed, along with many other lands, as appears by a charter, bearing date at Westminster, on the feast of the Holy Innocents, in the 25th year of his reign, 1064*.

This grant, "for ever," was nevertheless soon set aside by the Norman duke, on his accession; for he resumed the possession of Rutland as Crown land, and, merely allowing the monastery to receive the tythes, divided it amongst some of his nearest relatives, and most powerful adherents.

These first Norman grantees were, *Robert Malet*, who held the office of Great Chamberlain, and whose father was one of the principal generals at the battle of Hastings, after which he was entrusted with the care and interment of the body of the usurper *Harold*; *Gilbert de Gant*, his nephew by marriage, being his wife's brother's son, also an officer of high rank; *Earl Hugh*; *Aubrey*, the clerk, and several others. Several manors also, whose situation is not now precisely known, were granted to his niece *Judith*, afterwards Countess of Huntingdon, and to *Maud*, Countess of Albemarle, his half sister. It is evident, however, that considerable royalties were reserved in these grants; for the county of Rutland, together with the town of Rockingham, in Northamptonshire, were assigned by Parliament, (or as then more minutely expressed, "with the common consent and unanimous agreement of the archbishops, bishops, earls, barons, and clergy, with the whole commons of the realm,") to Queen Isabel at her coronation, in the reign of King John.

In the reign of Edward II. it appears, that the Crown was possessed of the Hundreds of Martinsley, Alstoe, and East Hundred; all which that monarch granted to the Lady Margaret, wife of Piers de Gaveston, Duke of Cornwall, then his favourite, and to be held by her during the Royal pleasure. The Hundred of Wrangdyke was then the property of Guy de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick; but his son Thomas being a minor at his father's death, Edward gave this estate to Hugh Spenser the elder, another

* Vide Dugdale's Monasticon.

other favourite, on the plea of its being in satisfaction of a debt due to him, of 6770l.

During those transactions, the Hundred of Okeham Soke is never mentioned; and it is conjectured, that it then formed part of Martinsley Hundred.

From this period its history ceases to be general as a county; but it shall be noticed in particular, under the various heads.

This county is supposed to have been an *Earldom* soon after the Conquest; for amongst the witnesses enumerated in a charter granted by Henry I. in 1101, to Herbert, Bishop of Norwich, and the monks of the Holy Trinity there, we find the name of "Robert Comes Rutland." * This, however, is the only instance of that nature on record, and we believe that the college of heralds acknowledge no Earl earlier than

EDWARD, eldest son of Edmund of Langley, fifth son of Edward III. so created on the 25th of February, in the 13th of Richard II. 1389; but with the reservation that he should enjoy the title no longer than during his father's life-time, he becoming, on his demise, Duke of York. Along with his title he obtained a grant of the castle, town, and lordship, of Okeham, together with the shrivalty of the county. He was also created Duke of Albemarle by King Richard; but on the deposition of that monarch by Henry, Duke of Lancaster, afterwards Henry IV. he was stripped not only of that dukedom, but also of that of York, inherited from his father. In the 7th of Henry IV. however, he was restored to the royal favour, and to his hereditary dukedom, in addition to his earldom of Rutland, which he had alone been permitted to retain; and soon after was not only employed along with Thomas Duke of Clarence, to assist the Duke of Orleans against the Duke of Burgundy, but was constituted Justice of South Wales, by Henry V. and General Warden of the East Marches towards Scotland. With this latter monarch he was in such favour, that he attended him in his expedition to France; and at his own particular desire had the command of the van at the ever

* Vide Dugdale's Monasticon, Vol. I. p. 411.

ever memorable battle of Agincourt. In this he behaved most gallantly; nor did he receive a wound: "but being corpulent, through much heat and thronging, was smothered to death." He was a Knight of the Garter, and in the fashion of the times founded the Collegiate Church of Fotheringhay, in Northamptonshire. He married Philippa, daughter and coheiress of John Lord Mohun of Dunster; but leaving no issue, was succeeded by

Richard Plantagenet, his nephew, only son of Richard of Conisburgh, Earl of Cambridge, his brother. During the tempestuous reign of Henry VI. he was the claimant of the Crown on the side of the White Rose, previous to which he had distinguished himself much in military affairs in France. In the early part of Henry's reign, he and Somerset were made joint regents of that kingdom, and he was afterwards retained to serve in the wars of France and Normandy, over which he was appointed lieutenant, and captain general.

To enumerate all the events which led to the destruction of the English power in France is here unnecessary; but it appears that he and his friends attributed them principally to the Duke of Somerset, at that time considered as the king's firmest personal friend. There is no reason to believe that he gave any countenance to the various insurrections of Jack Cade and others; but it is evident that he took advantage of the popular discontents to place the Crown on his own head, as the lawful heir, being heir male of the family of Mortimer, Earl of March (by his mother Anne) descended from Lionel Duke of Clarence, third son of Edward III. In order to accomplish his purpose, he appeared in arms, professing only his intention to remove evil counsellors from his king; but Somerset having been thrown into confinement, and the popular indignation subsiding, he found his designs not ripe for execution; and the king's forces increasing and his own diminishing in number, he submitted himself to Henry, under a solemn oath to be a loyal and obedient subject, and was of course pardoned, according to the lenient principles which Henry adopted.

A few years afterwards, he made a second attempt, and being assisted by the Earls of Salisbury and Warwick, succeeded so far as to remove the Duke of Somerset from the ministry; but Henry, then recovering from a long and dangerous illness, immediately released Somerset from the Tower, where he had been confined, and took him again into favour. This measure produced such discontent in the kingdom, that Richard was enabled to raise a large army, and soon after, Somerset being slain in the battle of St. Albans', he was made Protector of the Realm, but having gone to Ireland, was removed from this high office, when his friends Salisbury and Warwick raised fresh forces, and having defeated the king at Northampton, he was encouraged to return; then being received with much popular applause, he went to the Parliament with great solemnity, ascended the Throne, and openly challenged it as his right. This, however, was not unanimously agreed to; so that, after long deliberation, he was obliged to be content with a resolution of Parliament, that he was heir apparent to the Crown, after the demise of Henry. Soon after this, intelligence was brought him that Margaret of Anjou had raised a force in the north to oppose this order of succession: he immediately marched to attack her; but being himself attacked by the queen's army, before he had collected a sufficient body of troops, he was killed at the battle of Wakefield in Yorkshire, in 1460. By Cecily his wife, daughter of Ralph Nevil the first Earl of Westmoreland of that name, (and commonly called "the Rose of Raby,") he had a numerous family. Edward his eldest ascended the Throne; and *Edmund* his second son, who, a short time before had been created *Earl of Rutland*, was stabbed by Lord Clifford, after the battle, though only a boy of twelve years old.

The title of *Rutland* thus became extinct in the Royal male line; but *Anne*, the eldest sister of Edward IV. and of the last Earl, having married Sir Thomas St. Leger, she had to him one sole daughter and heiress, Anne, who married George Manners, Lord Roos, and their eldest son Thomas, Lord Roos, was advanced to the dignity of an Earl, taking his title from this county, on the 28th June, in the 17th of Henry VIII. 1525.

The

The successive Earls and Dukes of this noble family will be found at large in the various peerages; we shall, therefore, only notice the grandson of the first Earl, Edward, the third Earl of the Manners family, of whom it has been said, that his speculative knowledge, that gave light to the most dark and difficult proposals, became eclipsed by the more dazzling lustre of his own practice and experimental prudence; which, (together with the alliance to my Lord Burleigh who had married his daughter,) had voted him to Bromley's place; but that they both sickened and died in one week. He left these four advices behind him: first, *Be always employed;* second, *Look to the issue;* third, *Be furnished with a friend;* fourth, *Reflect upon thyself.* *

The *Property* of this county, we have seen, was at first in the *Crown;* afterwards in the *Church,* but reduced by the Norman Conqueror, first to the whole tythes, and afterwards to those of the Church of Oakham only.

In order to give a general view of the *Landed Families,* after the property became more divided, we shall insert a list of the gentry of this county returned by the commissioners in the 12th of Henry VI. forming at the same time a point for genealogical reference and enquiry.

These were, Thomas Grenham, and William Beaufo, Knights of the Shire; John Basinges of Empingham, Knt.; John Colepepper of Exton, Henry Plesington of Burley, Knts.; Robert Brown of Wodehead, Esq.; Robert Davis of Tickencote, Esq.; John Brown of Tighe, Esq.; John Plesington of Wissendine, Esq.; Thomas Flore of Oakham, Esq.; Francis Clerk of Stokedry, Esq.; John Chycelden of Branston, Esq.; John Sapcott of Ketton, merchant; John Clerk of Wissendine, merchant; Robert Whitwell of Ketton, Gent.; Wm. Lewes of Oakham, Gent.; John Brigge of ditto, ditto; John Basset of North Luffenham, Gent.; James Palmer, and John Palmer of ditto, ditto; William Sheffield of Seaton, Gent.; Robert Soussex, of Market Overton, Gent.; John Vowe, of Whitwell, Gent.; William Pochon, of Wissendine, Gent.; William Swaffield, of Braunston, Gent.; Henry Breton,

* Lloyd's State Worthies, Vol. I. p. 557.

Breton, of Ketton, Gent.; William Uffington, of Pilton, Gent.; Thomas Luffenham, of Winge, Gent.

Since that period great changes have taken place, as will appear under the various heads; the present principal *Landholders* are as follow:

Duke of Rutland, Marquis of Exeter, Marquis of Salisbury, Earl of Winchelsea, Earl of Harborough, Earl of Pomfret, Viscount Downe, Lord Sondes, Lord Northwick, Lord G. H. Cavendish, Hon. John Monckton, Sir Gilbert Heathcote, Bart. Sir John Smith, Bart. Dean and Chapter of Westminster, Dean and Chapter of Lincoln, General Morgan, Colonel Noel, George Fludyer, Esq. Thomas Barker, Esq. William Walcot, Esq. Francis Cheselden, Esq. William Kemp, Esq. Robert Walker, Esq. Miss Ashley, Nathaniel Tryon, Esq. John Bellairs, Esq. John Wingfield, Esq. Henry O'Brien, Esq. C. B. Adderley, Esq. &c. &c.

In a county of such small extent the *Seats* of the nobility and gentry cannot be supposed to be very numerous; these are,

Ayston, near Uppingham, George B. Brudenell, Esq.
Burleigh-on-the-Hill, Earl of Winchelsea.
Clipsham, near to, John Hack, Esq.
——————— Rev. —— Snow.
Cotsmore-House, a hunting-seat of the Earl of Lonsdale.
Exton, Col. Noel.
Edithweston, near to, Robert Tomlin, Esq.
——————— Walden Orme, Esq.
Glaiston, occupied by Henry O'Brien, Esq.
Hambleton, Captain Gardner.
Ketton, an old mansion of Lord Northwick's.
Tolethorpe House, Mrs. Brown.
Lynden, Thomas Barker, Esq.
Morcot, Nathaniel Tryon, Esq.
Normanton, Sir Gilbert Heathcote, Bart.
Oakham Lodge, seat of Colonel Noel.
Pilton, R. G. Bateman, Esq.

Preston, William Belgrave, Esq.
——— near to, Rev. —— Shields.
Ridlington, Francis Cheselden, Esq.
Ryall, Matthew Pierrepoint, Esq.
South Luffenham, Thomas Hotchkys, Esq.
Stretton, occupied by General Grosvenor.
Tickencote, John Wingfield, Esq.
Tinover, Henry O'Brien, Esq.
Uppingham near to, C. B. Adderley, Esq.
Wissenden, an old unoccupied mansion of Earl Harborough.

The *Titles* which have been taken from the different places in this county are few in number, and not specifically designative, being merely Ferrars of Oakham, and Noel of Exton, now both extinct.

The *Baronetages* are only five in number; Sir Edward Noel, of Brooke; Sir James Harrington, of Ridlington; Sir Thomas Mackworth, of Normanton; Sir Abel Barker, of Hambleton; and Sir Gilbert Heathcote, of Normanton: all but the last now extinct.

When the *Order of the Royal Oak* was proposed in the reign of Charles II. the following gentlemen were chosen as worthy of its investiture: Abell Barker, Esq.; Edward Fawkenor, of Uppingham, Esq.; Christopher Browne, Esq.; Richard Halford, of Edithweston, Esq.; Samuel Browne, Esq; and Henry Noel, Esq. all stated as possessed of lands from 1000l. to 600l. per annum.

The CLIMATE of this county has always been considered as mild, healthful, and pleasant. A fair estimate of its general state may be drawn from a very interesting letter from the late Thomas Barker, of Lynden, Esq. to James West, Esq. president of the Royal Society, containing observations on the quantity of rain fallen at that place for several years, from 1736 to 1771, when the communication was made, and which may be found at large in the Phil. Trans. Vol. 61, p. 221.

From an examination of this, it appears that more rain had fallen in the latter than in the former part of the period. The smallest

smallest quantity in any year was between 1740 and 1743, equal to sixteen inches and a half per year: the greatest quantity from 1767 to 1770, equal to twenty-five inches and a half per annum. These observations seem to have been taken with all possible accuracy on the part of Mr. Barker; but they are not to be considered as infallible; for in a second letter on the same subject, he shews the danger of trusting implicitly to these guages, adding, "Mr. Edward Laurence, who observed the rain at Stamford part of the time whilst I have done here, generally found more water in his measurer, which stood on the ground, than I did in mine; but I cannot depend on his observations, because I have been told the servants at the house used to play him tricks, and pour into his cistern more water than fell in, to which a thing on the ground is very liable."

The succeeding years have been in some measure filled up by Samuel Barker, Esq. from whose register, quoted by Mr. Parkinson in his recent Agricultural Survey of the County, it appears, that during the period from 1791 to 1798 inclusive, there have been no preponderant winds in the county, whilst the average of rain fallen has been at 24. 61. inches per year; the greatest quantity being 29.40. and the smallest 21.40 inches,

Mr. Parkinson, in describing the *Face of the county*, says very justly, that it is, generally speaking, very beautiful, especially where it is well timbered, being much diversified by small and gently rising hills, running east and west, with vallies of about half a mile in width intersecting them, so that in travelling through it, there are fresh views at the distance of every three or four miles, causing its appearance to be very lively. To this we may add, that its principal vale of Catmose is in the centre of the shire, "a pleasant and fertile valley, perhaps from *coet maes*, which signify in British, a woody plain."* On the north side of this vale the ground rises, immediately after leaving Oakham, and ascending Burleigh-hill,† where we again meet with a dead flat extending all over the northern part of the county, forming a kind

* Camden. † Or Burley.

a kind of *table land*, looking down upon the fertile and well wooded plains of Leicester, Nottingham, and Lincolnshires. The eastern part of the county is more diversified; the southern district consists in a great measure of one very extensive valley, mostly open land, stretching into Northamptonshire; and the western borders, the remains of the old forest of Liefield, are well wooded, and sink in the distance into the Leicestershire plains.

The SOIL consists in general of red land, good clay, poor clay, hazel earth, white stony land, black clay, and gravelly clay. An old writer tells us,* that it is "rich land, but so red that it stains the wool of the sheep that feed on it of a red colour:" and Gough, in his additions to Camden, says, "there is a great deal of red land in Rutland, and very red, but it is by no means universal in the county, nor peculiar to it."

This redness, like all other wonders, seems to have been much exaggerated, principally from the relators never having themselves examined into the matter; and we shall exemplify this inaccurate mode of relation by a quotation from the *Magna Britannia*, and this the more readily, because it seems to contain the whole of what has been said and conjectured upon the subject. "As to the nature of the soil, namely, that it is so red, that it tinges the fleeces of the sheep that lie upon it, we have rejected it as a mistake from the authority of Mr. Wright, who, *we suppose*, made a particular enquiry into it: but since Dr. Fuller tells us, that there were a sort of poor men called raddlemen, or reddlemen, peculiar to this county, who went up and down the neighbouring parts, carrying packs of red stones or oker, which they sold to the country farmers and jobbers for the marking of their sheep; and it would be well nigh as discernible and lasting as pitch-brands, and less hurtful to the fleeces; it is *more than probable* that the red lands in this county, at least in some parts of it, were of a clear different nature from those in other counties, partaking something of the oker redness, and so might make the sheep's

* Childrey's Rarities of Britain.

sheep's fleeces reddish, especially in folding upon lands broken up by the plough, which might touch the oker mines." After all which sage conjectures, it is enough to say, that a love of the marvellous had induced various narrators to adopt that figure in rhetoric, of putting a part for the whole, and thus extending the ochry property of some parts of the lands about Glaisten, and in the vale of Catmose, to the whole of the county.

Mr. Parkinson discriminates the various soils, observing, that the east and south-east parts are of a shallow staple upon limestone rock, with a small mixture of cold wood land and a clay soil; whilst the other parts of the county are composed of a strong loam, to which the vale of Catmose is in some measure an exception, consisting of good clay, red loam, and a mixture of clay and red loam.

The modern system of agriculture too is much assisted in this county, from the circumstance of its varying so much in its different kinds of soil at small distances, causing each soil to be much more valuable than it could be; if one kind only were spread through each lordship.

Although the *Superficial Contents* of the county have been delivered into Parliament at 128,000 acres, yet Mr. Parkinson, on what authority we know not, states them only at 91,002 acres, and 29 perches, thus divided:

Pasture lands equal to	34,861	acres.
Meadow	9,356	
Arable	42,536	
Common	693	
Waste	30	
Plantations	65	
Woods	2,815	
Water	44	
	91,002	-- 29

allowing for some small fractions in each part.

With

With such advantages it may be supposed that the PRODUCE is considerable. The barley in particular is of such a superior quality, that the farmers of Rutland generally call *it* corn, specifying other kinds of grain by their various names. When Mr. Crutchley wrote, (who drew up the First Report for the Board of Agriculture,) corn of all kinds was cheaper than in the adjoining counties, but dearer than in the metropolis, which he attributed to the want of water carriage. The new canal, however, has put Rutland pretty much on a level with its neighbours.

It will naturally be concluded that the *Modes of agriculture* must differ in some degree, not only on the different soils, but on those lands which are open or enclosed. It is beyond our plan, however, to enter upon the minutiæ of this detail, further than to notice a few of Mr. Parkinson's very accurate and diffuse observations, confirmed by personal investigation and enquiry.*

The old course of two crops and a fallow is yet followed upon the uninclosed arable lands; except upon some of the light soils, where turnips, to be fed off upon the ground by sheep, are raised upon the fallows. In the ensuing season the dead fallows are sowed with wheat, and the latter with barley. The second crops on the light soils consist generally of pease alone: but on the clays there is an intermixture of pease and beans. Some of the farmers, however, in the eastern district about Exton and Casterton, have adopted the custom of sowing barley and broad clover after their fallows, mowing the clover for a second year's crop, and feeding it off with sheep during the fallow year, when it is

* The writer of these sheets cannot omit mentioning the following *rustic bon mot*, which took place in a field near Exton Park in the last autumn. Seeing the farmer and his men employed in loading a waggon with the sheaves of a very plentiful crop, he entered into conversation on their harvest of the different kinds of grain; and observing that he had heard a farmer in Nottinghamshire complain of the scantiness of his *rye crop*, when another comforted him with the reflection that the less there was of it the more money it would fetch, as the *poor would not eat it when plentiful*. "Ah, master!" exclaimed an aged swain, "thank God we have a good *wheat* harvest, and so the *wry* mouths are all shut."

is considered as proper for a course of wheat, &c. The farmers have an idea that winter plowing is hurtful to the land; of course they lay their manure on the fallows, where it remains till the spring, when it is plowed in, and the seed sown broadcast.

As hoeing is not used upon the open lands, except with respect to turnips, it often happens that the crops, particularly on light lands, are not so clear as they ought to be in good husbandry.

The inclosed lands are mostly the light sorts of limestone bases and of red loam. These are principally, or at least partly, under the Norfolk mode of husbandry of four years' rotation, and without feeding off, except in the turnip crops; but another mode has been for some years adopted, of taking two crops of spring corn after breaking up the clover, then turnips, next barley with rye-grass and clover; after which there are three or four years sheep feeding, when it is broken up again for spring corn.

As the first of these methods is useful for raising the greatest proportion of wheat, and the second is alike beneficial for sheep-stock, it is not surprising that each should have warm advocates in preference to the other; it is perhaps best that each mode should be adopted; but it is no less certain that either of them is preferable to the old mode on open lands.

The extraordinary difference, and the consequent advantages to the farmer and the nation at large, is clearly and plainly shewn by Mr. Parkinson, who states that the expenses on *three* acres of open field-land in one year, according to the method still practised where there are no inclosures, amount to 15l. 19s. 6d. whilst the produce does not exceed 21l. 6s. leaving a profit of 5l. 6s. 6d. or 1l. 15s. 6d. per acre; whilst, according to the improved system, the expenses on *four* acres amount to 24l. 3s. 4d. whilst the produce is 43l. 17s. giving a profit of 19l, 13s. 8d. or 4l. 18s. 5d. per acre. This extraordinary difference he demonstrates to arise from the rent and expenses of the *fallow year* in the old method. But there is another advantage connected with the new mode, perhaps of equal importance with the increased produce; and that is the additional employment it gives to the poor, particularly

women and children, in weeding and hoeing, independent of the additional harvest labour.

The *Tenures* are various, freehold, leasehold, and copyhold, but principally the former; and the *Occupation* is mostly from year to year, continuing till very lately under the old system, but with a recent obligation on the farmer to take only one crop of spring corn previous to a fallow.

The *Size of farms* varies much, running from fifteen acres to 640; but the latter are not very numerous; whilst the cottagers have great advantages, in possessing enough to enable them to keep one or two cows, and to fill up their vacant time, without rendering them unwilling to continue in their proper occupation as day labourers.

The *Average of rents* has been till lately not more than a guinea per acre through the county; but that is now much increased.

The *Farm-houses* are in general very comfortable, indeed superior to many other counties; but being mostly in villages at some distance from the lands, much inconvenience must be felt; and this it appears is evidently the reason of a very just complaint made by Mr. Parkinson, of their offices being badly constructed, and inconveniently arranged. This gentleman also mentions a curious fact respecting the rents of cottages, which, when taken at the first hand from the land-owners, may be had for twenty shillings per annum; whilst in towns they are relet at the unconscionable advance of forty.

Of late years many gentlemen farm part of their own estates.

When Mr. Crutchley wrote, not more than one-third of the county was subject to *Tythes;* and since that period the tythes of all new inclosures have been commuted by allotments of a certain proportion of one-fifth arable, and one-ninth of greensward. This has been further noticed by Mr. Parkinson, who says, "it may be observed that the greater part of the parishes are exonerated from tythes, either by modus, or being made free. This desirable object has been attended to in all the recent inclosures;

 and

and the greatest advantages in every respect have been the happy consequence to both the clergy and the laymen."

The highest tithes paid are in Oakham parish, where they amount to 5s. 6d. per acre; in some parts they are 1s. 6d. per acre; and in Ashwell they are 3s. in the pound.

The MINERALOGY of this county is upon a very circumscribed scale. Mr. Parkinson, in his late Survey, observes, that there is nothing worthy of remark under this head, except that at Ketton there is a kind of stone very proper and famous for buildings. He adds, that in many parts there is stone for lime, consisting of a soft and hard species; that various opinions are entertained of the lime made for these two sorts, but in general that made from the hard stone is preferred. He might have added too, that these lime stones are well deserving the attention of the naturalist, and of all *diluvian* and *antediluvian* theorists, as they contain a great number of marine substances, and are themselves to be found in the various degrees of tenacity, from that of mere indurated clay, or hardened *sea ooze*, to the consistence of stone.

It is also a curious fact, that the building stone now found at Ketton was at one time completely lost; for the Editors of the *Magna Britannia*, about the beginning of the last century, say, "upon Witchley heath, between Ketton and Tinwell, in East Hundred, we find some marks or pits *in our maps*, called the quarries, which we suppose were holes in the earth, out of which some kind of building stone hath been dug; but the vein being long since exhausted, we have no account of any such quarries here either by Mr. Wright, or any other historians who treat of this county."

The red ochry tint of the soil, of which we have already spoken, evidently rises from the presence of ferruginous matter; and this is proved by the number of *Chalybeate springs* throughout the whole county. One of these, a very strong impregnation, is in a piece of marshy ground near Normanton; there are several others at Martinsthorpe, Hambleton, Lyndon, and North Luffenham; but the strongest, and which has long been much noted, and some

† years

years ago much resorted to, is between Teigh and Market Overton.

The WOODS of this county are supposed to have formerly been much more extensive than at present; and various topographers have asserted, that where Oakham is now situated, oaks once grew; nay, that the whole vale of Catmose was once an extensive tract of woodland. This, indeed, is little more than conjecture; but it is well ascertained that the

FOREST OF LEAFIELD,

or Lyfield, once occupied the greatest part of Oakham Hundred; and that *Beaumont Chace*, a part of it, once extended over great part of Martinsley Hundred, having several towns within its purlieus, though they are now destroyed.

It is supposed that this forest took its name from the *Manor of Leigh*, or Lee, which is nearly in its centre; it must be, however, rather of recent erection, for there is no mention of it in Domesday book, nor in any of the subsequent reigns, as the editors of Magna Britannia assert, until that of Edward II. when Theobald de Menyle, (or rather, as some think, Neville,) was lord of the manor of Leigh. But this is incorrect; for though its origin is uncertain, yet several grounds, parcels of it, were afforested in the reign of King John, which is fully proved by a perambulation made in the 28th year of Edward I.*

Several of the towns in its vicinity, as well as those within its limits, still claim certain forest rights, it may not be irrelevant, therefore, to trace its bounds, from a MS. whose date is uncertain, but which came into the possession of the *Noel* family on their purchase of its rights in the reign of James I.

This perambulation is stated as commencing at *Flitteris Corner*, in the field of Oakham; from whence it goes westward, including all *Braunston High Meadow*, with the *Wisp* and *Withcot Sail;* thence it proceeds towards the south-west, taking in *Brittlewell Sail* and *Cockly Sail*, and so to *Steerwood*, where it takes in *Tinford Bridge*, *Belton*, and *Wardly* towns,

 and

* Vide Wright's History of Rutland.

and thence to *Beaumont Sail* and *Preston Underwoods;* from this station it proceeds by *Caldecot* to *Longbridge*, including *Caldecot* and *Snelston Fields*, and thence up to *Lyddington*, having in its course taken in all *Uppingham Brand* and the *East Field;* after which, taking in all *Ayston* common field, it proceeds by *Ridlington* to *Brooke*, thence up to *Brook Mill*, and so on to *Flitteris* where it commenced.

From Theobald de Menyle, already mentioned, the office of chief forester, which seems to have been attached to the possession of the manor of Leigh, passed, by inheritance, to the family of Cheseldine; but there is no evidence remaining of the length of their tenure, only it is known that the property was in the crown in the reign of Edward IV. as that monarch bestowed the grant of the manor of Leigh, or Lyfield, and of the office of chief forester in Rutland, upon his great favorite and faithful adherent, William Lord Hastings. This nobleman having been murdered by the usurper Richard, and his lands confiscated, they were again restored by Henry VII. to his son Edward, Lord Hastings, whose son and heir, George, was created Earl of Huntingdon; but his son Henry sold it, with the manor, to Sir James Harrington, Knt. who was obliged, in the 24th year of Queen Elizabeth, to apply for a pardon for having purchased it without a licence of alienation, it being held of the crown *in capite*.

The last Lord Harrington, in whom, by the death of his father, it became vested, settled the manor of Leigh, and all the forest rights, &c. in the hands of trustees, in the 11th of James I. to be sold after his death for the payment of his and his father's debts; and his demise taking place soon after, the same were purchased by Sir Edward Noel, Bart. the fine for the same being passed in the ensuing year, since which it has come along with the family estates to the present representative of that family, Colonel Edwards Noel.

Leland, when speaking of this forest, in the reign of Henry VIII. says,* " from Wiscombe partely through woddy ground of

* Leland's Itinerary, Vol. I.

of the forest of Leafield, and so to Ruthlandshire, by woddy first, and then all champain ground, but exceeding rich of corn and pasture."

This description may be considered as strictly applicable at the present day, as there is not a tract of the same extent in England, which presents a richer prospect of wood and cultivation than this; when viewed from the rising grounds on the road between Uppingham and Wardley. The *Forest* and *Parish* of Leafield, are described by Mr. Parkinson as consisting of rich clay soil, and good red soil, with some poor clay; but it will be considered as a sufficient proof of its exuberance of fertility, when we state that a great portion of the rich cheese, that goes by the name of *Stilton*, is actually made in this district, and in the *Vale of Catmose*.

In its various recesses too, it presents a fine field for the botanist, who, among many other things, will find here a great quantity of the Squinancy wort, or *Synanchia Lugdunensis*.

This county is considered as being in general well watered for agricultural purposes, principally by springs and ponds; whilst most of the towns and villages, which are not seated upon the *Guash* or *Welland*, have, notwithstanding, the advantages of possessing other small streams or rivulets. Water, for the purposes of irrigation, is not indeed plentiful here; but that is of little consequence, as most of the meadows are upland; and the *Guash* having a rapid fall, soon returns to its usual limits after the heaviest floods, whilst the *Welland* lying on a dead flat, its floods sometimes lie so long upon the ground, as not only to injure the verdure, but even to affect the sheep with the rot.

The only two RIVERS of note, are the *Guash* and *Welland*. The former, shortened into *Wash*, crosses the country from west to east, nearly dividing it into two equal parts, and in general with a pretty full stream.

Leland says,* "Washe riveret riseth in Leyrcestershire, and cometh by Greatham in Ruthelandshire——the hole course from the hedde of it a little byneth Wasche-bridge where it goeth into

* Leland's Itinerary, Vol. VI. p. 30.

Weland river, a little benethe Staunford town, is an XVIII or XX miles. The common saying is there, that Waahe and Wiland shall drown al Holonde,"—alluding to Holland in Lincolnshire.

Those who are fond of *Fishing* may find great amusement on its banks. The banks of this river also afford much amusement to the botanist; in particular he will find here the tender ivy-leaved bell-flower, or campanula palustris; also the osmund royal, or filix floribus insignis.

Another small stream, the *Chater*, crosses the county some miles to the southward of the Guash; the Little Eye, (anciently the *Lytelee,)** is the boundary between the south-west district of Rutland and Leicestershires; and though but a small stream, is often subject to floods; and there is another which, at present, has almost lost its name, that runs from the Vale of Catmose into the Guash above Empingham, and called Cotsmore, perhaps from the vale in which it rises.

The *Welland* may indeed be justly considered as a river belonging to this county, though it serves principally as its boundary from Northamptonshire. Its takes its rise in Leicestershire, and touches first upon Rutland in the vicinity of Caldecot, from whence it proceeds in a meandering course towards the north-east, and running past Stamford in Lincolnshire, crosses the fens in that county, where it falls into the Foesdyke. Having been made navigable as high as Stamford, it affords considerable facility of water carriage to the southern district of the county, although its navigable extent does not enter into Rutland; but it is not likely that it will be continued further, though it might perhaps be easily made to communicate with the different navigations in Leicester and Northamptonshires.

It is remarkable that this river, through a long course of ages, has still preserved its most ancient name, but subject to *translation*. Peck† tells us, that Weallan, in Saxon, signified "furere," to boil, to rage, to bubble; and Wealland is the participle, a name so well agreeing with the nature of a sharp stream, a *fluctus rapidus*,

* Vide Gough's Camden. † Annals of Stamford.

rapidus, that it looks as much like a translation of the British Doorebriff into the Saxon Welland, as it is the just etymology of the latter; and at the present day, *Durobriff*, in Welsh, signifies a sharp stream. If this derivation is correct, we must suppose that the course of this river was formerly more rapid than at present.

Though Rutland enjoys a partial benefit from the improved navigation of the Welland, yet it has, properly speaking, but one CANAL, that of *Oakham*. This branch of a more extended line begins in the neighbourhood of Melton Mowbray, in Leicestershire, enters Rutland near Teigh, and passes by Market Overton, Barrow, Cotsmore, and Burley, until it approaches Oakham on its north side, in the level of the vale of Catmose. Its course through Leicestershire and Rutland is about south-east, for an extent of fifteen miles. Its first moiety has a regular rise of 126 feet perpendicular; but after entering this county it continues on a level. The Rutland line of six and a half miles was completed in 1803; and the whole expense was 86,000l. raised in shares of 100l.

In dry summers it is in great want of water, though there is a reservoir formed on its western side, near to Langham; but Mr. Parkinson, with some propriety too, recommends an extensive system of agricultural drainage throughout the county, which, as he observes, would kill two birds with one stone, if conducted so as to fall into the reservoir, or into any other conveniently situated. The principal objects of this navigation are the supply of coals and timber, and the transport of agricultural produce.

The ROADS throughout the county are tolerably good; but, as Mr. Parkinson notices, badly made, consisting only of a central part for draught, whilst the rest is waste; nay, worse than useless. The first report delivered into the Board of Agriculture also notices this defect, and complains much of the different parishes not assisting each other with materials for repair. To this it is very judiciously added, that without this friendly aid in the

parish which unfortunately has no materials of its own, the roads must still remain in their original impassable state, suffering perhaps the taunts and reproaches of those very neighbours whose illiberal refusal of assistance is the cause of their ragged state. This custom of each parish reserving to itself its own materials was at that time so politely attended to by the surveyors, that even, though supported by an Act of Parliament, they declined taking materials, if the land-owners objected to it, although the Turnpike Acts were so very explicit in authorising every thing of this kind for the benefit of the public at large, and indeed even of the very individuals who, like the dog in the manger, refused the necessary supply.

Even at the present day, the system of mending the roads does not seem to have improved much, as, in the course of the last summer, the Editor of these sheets observed a very awkward part of the road on the rise and turn of the hill between Burley and Whitwell, covered for some perches along the centre with immense fragments of ragged stone, thicker and harder than even the heads of the surveyors who had directed them to be laid down, and this without any mixture of sand or gravel to fill up their interstices. Here, it seems, they were laid, in hopes that coaches, carts, and waggons, would gratuitously pulverize them; but coaches, carts, and waggons, like the rich wayfarers in the parable of the Good Samaritan, turned on one side, to their own manifest risk too, without attempting to smooth the ragged surface. In fact, such was the style of this *modern improvement*, that, had it been laid entirely *across* the road, it must have produced a complete system of blockade and non-intercourse between Oakham and Stamford.

These are circumstances which fastidious critics may think beneath the notice of *topography;* but even if we had no hopes of producing amendment by our strictures, we may still be permitted to elucidate "Beauties," by the contrast of such horrid deformity!

There are no MANUFACTURES of any import in this county, which

which Mr. Parkinson, we believe, with great justice, attributes solely to the want of water, and scarcity of fuel, and not to any deficiency of inclination, of spirit, or of capital. Some trifling circumstances, however, connected with manufacture, will come in under the subsequent divisions.

The POPULATION of the county are very properly described as being healthy, and well fed; there has not, however, even of late years, been any great increase amongst them; which circumstance, in a county solely *agricultural*, shews evidently, that *England is not independent of Commerce*, at least, that without commerce, which is the only stimulus and vent for manufactures, our population, and consequent real strength as a nation, could not possibly have increased to its present extent.

In the last century, on averages taken at intervals of ten years, it appears, that the greatest number of baptisms in any one year, were 270 males, and 252 females; whilst the burials amounted to 249 males, and 224 females. From this we might naturally conclude, that a small increase would take place; but as that was not the case, we are the more disposed to credit an assertion we have heard in the county, more than once, that the want of employment sends many into the neighbouring districts. This evil may, perhaps, in some measure, be corrected in future, by the additional labour necessary in an improved mode of cultivation, and generally arising from enclosures; but that it has existed, and still exists at the present day, will appear from the recent census.

During the last half century the average of marriages were 110 annually, but there is no actual census of the population before 1801, when there were found to be 7978 males, and 8378 females, making a total of 16,356. Of these, 3995 were employed in agriculture, 1928 in trade, and the remainder 10438 were unemployed; the latter number, of course, including the gentry, clergy, perhaps, a great proportion of the females, and the greatest part of the youthful population.

These, on the whole, were found to occupy 1536 dwelling-houses,

houses, 470 farm-houses, and 672 cottages, at an earlier period; but in the census of 1801, the inhabited houses were 3274; the families occupying them 3563; and 87 houses uninhabited.

By the recent returns to Parliament the males amount to 7931; the females to 8449: being a diminution of the one sex of 47, and in the other an increase of 71, making in the whole an absolute increase of only 24 in ten years, or 16,380 for the sum total.

Under the present head it will not be irrelevant to notice some curious particulars of the internal regulations of the county, communicated by Thomas Barker of Lyndon, Esq. in 1791 *, from which it appears, that in the early part of the seventeenth century, the rates of wages for all kinds of servants, and even workmen, were actually assessed by the Justices at Oakham, in 1610. By these regulations a man-servant, who could make a rick, and kill a hog, had fifty shillings per annum; but if he could not make the rick, or kill the hog, he had only forty: "a chief woman-servant to cooke, bake, brew, and make malt, and oversee the other servants," had twenty-six shillings and eightpence; but if she could not oversee the servants, only twenty-three and fourpence: the wages for mowers in harvest were fivepence per day with victuals, and tenpence without.

It was also settled that, "a *freemason* which can draw his plot, work, and set accordingly, having charge over others, before Michaelmas, eightpence; but twelvepence without meat:" and the justices decreed, that "every person *givinge* above the wages appointed shall suffer ten days' imprisonment, and forfeit ten pounds; and that every person *takinge* above the wages appointed shall suffer one and twenty days' imprisonment."

The STATE OF THE POOR is such an object of consideration, that we have endeavoured to collect all the information possible respecting it; all which tends much to the credit of this small county.

When Sir F. M. Eden wrote, the general employment of the industrious

* Archæologia, Vol. XI. p. 200, et seq.

dustrious poor throughout Rutland was knitting stockings, and spinning linen and jersey, afterwards wove into tammies by poor weavers in the southern parts of the county. Something of this trade still exists, but, we believe, without any increase; and at present nothing else remains for their employ but agricultural labour, and the encouragement offered to them by the *Society for promoting Industry*. The wages of both sexes run from nine to fifteen shillings per week, and the women are much employed in field work during the summer months; but this latter would be much increased if more attention was paid to weeding and hoeing, &c.

Notwithstanding this comparative want of employment, the *Poor's Rates* are low in general, a circumstance said to arise from a great many cottagers being allowed small portions of land just sufficient to keep one or two cows, though not enough to prevent them from attending to daily labour. This is certainly a judicious arrangement; and though it does not extend to all the parishes, it is to be hoped that the beneficial effects which have been found to attend its adoption in every case will convince the different farmers and landholders, of its propriety.

The rates have for some years been pretty stationary; no material increase has, in fact, taken place in the greater number of parishes, except, as Mr. Parkinson tells us, in Bishbrooke, where, in seven years, they have risen in the proportion of four to one. To counterbalance this, they have decreased both in Lyddington and in Winge, a circumstance that speaks in favour of enclosures; for both these parishes were mostly open in 1794, when Mr. Crutchley expressly stated, that the poor's rates were highest in the uninclosed parishes.

We have not seen any statement of the rates later than Mr. Parkinson's Survey, by which it appears, that the highest were then at Oakham, Flitteris, North Luffenham, and Preston, being five shillings in the pound, whilst at Seaton they were five shillings on three quarters of the rent; at Uppingham, they were only four shillings; at Ayston, Egleton, Whitwell, &c. they were

as

as low as one shilling in the pound; and Leafield only paid one penny per acre towards the Oakham poor's rate. In Martinsthorpe there was no poor's rate whatever.

Though, as was before observed, there has been no increase of the poor's rates during the last few years; yet between 1771, and 1803, the total increase of county rates was from 2887l. to 12,674l.

In that latter year, the average was about 3s. 5d. in the pound, and the principal items of expenditure was as follow:

For *Out-poor*, 6215l.; for *In-poor*, 2061l.; in suits of law, 399l.; for church-rates, roads, and other county expenses, 4180l. It appears also, that some partial attempts to make the poor assist in their own support took place, but on a very small scale. 18l. 8s. 7d. were expended in supplying out poor with materials, and 39l. 18s. 8d. were earned; whilst 9l. 5s. were expended in the work-houses, and their earnings there amounted to 103l. 7s. 7d. The out-poor relieved amounted to 498, and those inside to 169, with about 300 children; and there were 83 children in schools of industry.

Upon the whole, it appeared, that the persons relieved were in a proportion of 8 in a 100; that there were 23 Friendly Societies, containing 1704 members, about 10 in a 100; that the average of all rates was about 15s. 6d. per head; and that the expenditure for poor amounted to 10s, 7¼d. per head of the population.

There is no doubt that the SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING INDUSTRY has been of essential service. It was first proposed by the Reverend Thomas Foster of Tinwell, who took infinite pains in its establishment, its first object being to encourage industry in those not already chargeable to the parishes, by supplying them with wheels, and the rough materials for spinning, &c. It was finally established by Act of Parliament in 1785, and it now receives one per cent on the Poor's Rates from most of the parishes, to which several very handsome benefactions have been added. The sum thus raised is expended in giving premiums

miums to poor children for spinning and knitting, and also to deserving young persons on other occasions; as well as to parents who have brought up without parochial assistance four or more children to the age of fourteen years. As far back as 1794 it was but in its infancy, but Mr. Crutchley, in his report to the Agricultural Board, asserted, that even then it had tended much to the diminution of the Poor's Rate: to prove this, it has been shewn that the rates in 1780, were 2886l.; in 1785, the year of the Society's first formation, 3637l.; in the very next year they were only 3415l.; in 1787, reduced to 3008l.; in 1788, they were stationary, but in the succeeding year they began to increase, owing to the circumstances connected with the times, particularly the increase of prices, the necessary support of the families of militia-men, and of those raised by bounties for the naval service, &c.

Even now, though the rates are much higher than when the Society was first instituted, there is every reason to believe, that its beneficial effects are still felt, in keeping down the annual increase; an effect, however, not so apparent as when an absolute comparative diminution takes place, yet equally deserving both of praise and of imitation.

The CHARITY-SCHOOLS in this county are not very numerous, but will be noticed in their respective places; but we must not omit one good example of a bequest about a century ago, when 60l. per annum were left for the establishment of six schools for the poor children of the six parishes of Oakham, Empingham, Exton, Greetham, Langham, and Thistleton.

The ZOOLOGY will require but little notice, as this is not a breeding county on a large scale, in any class of animals. When Mr. Parkinson wrote, the *cows* (which it has been remarked, gave but little milk, though extremely rich,) were in number 2729; *calves* 1244; and *store calves* 700; there were no working cattle except *ten oxen*, kept by the Earl of Winchelsea; but as there was much grazing of cattle brought from other counties, and these after one summer's grass sent up to London,

don, it was estimated, that there were 2775 *fatting cattle*, and 332 *sucklers*.

At the same period the *horses* and *mares* were 2116, and *foals* 399, making a total of 2,457.

At the same time the *sheep* were estimated at 57830, and *lambs* 23316, or 81146 in all. These consisted of old and new Leicesters, a few Lincolns, and some South Downs. Their fleeces then run from four to five pounds; but Mr. Parkinson adds, that of late years the fleeces had declined one-fourth in weight; and though some considered the wool more valuable, as being finer, yet Mr. P. was of opinion, that the deficiency in weight arose principally from their breed of sheep being too diminutive. On this head we have made many enquiries, but without being able to say that any melioration has taken place.

The *hogs* were 4991 in number; there were 122 *pigeon houses*, and 1276 *bee-hives*.

The MUNICIPAL and PARLIAMENTARY HISTORY of Rutland require but little elucidation, except with respect to its *antiquity as a county*, on which subject there have been various opinions.

Camden says, "this small tract was very lately made a county; for in the Confessor's time it was accounted part of Northamptonshire; and our historians, *till these last* 360 *years*, have not reckoned it amongst the counties." New supposing Camden to have written this passage in the middle of Elizabeth's reign, or in 1580, his calculation would run only as far back as 1280, in the reign of Edward I.; this also agrees nearly with a note which has been found inserted in Domesday-book, but of a late date, describing an inquisition before William de Saham and his fellows, "inter Rageman de anno quarto Edward II." and in which the sworn inquisitors of the hundred of Sutton, in Northamptonshire, appointed to ascertain how many hundreds were in that county, declare that the county of Rutland formerly belonged to that county, until "our sovereign Lord the King, Henry (third of that name) father of our present Lord, gave it to the King of Almain; but they know not in what manner."

That

That part of this county was also in Nottinghamshire, as far down as the time of Henry III. appears from its entry in Domesday-book, and also from the historical fact, that in Henry's fifty-first year the sheriff of Notts was appointed Escheator of Rutland, or at least of part of it, extending over several towns and hamlets in Oakham Soke, Alstó, and Martinsley wapentakes. The sheriff of Notts must indeed have had a municipal authority over the same district, at an earlier period, for he is described in the Norman Survey as levying the king's tax to the amount of one hundred and fifty pounds of silver. Yet, notwithstanding all these facts, we are still of opinion that part of the present was, even then, a distinct county; for in another part of the Survey we find, that Morcar, Earl of Northumberland, is recorded as possessing "Casterton, in the county of Rutland," and Rutland also had its sheriffs *before* the reign of Henry III. which could not have been the case if it had not been a distinct county.

The first sheriff on record, in the 2d year of Henry II. 1155, was Richard de Humet, who enjoyed it for twenty-five years, with the exception of an interval of four, when it was in the hands of Robert Fitz Goebald. After these came Maldeit, Albini, Fresnei, Normanville, and Basset; then Geoffrey de Rokingham for twenty-two years, in the long reign of Henry III. and afterwards Greneham and Markinghall. In Edward the first's reign, it passed through the hands of the Boyvilles, Waykerles, and Whitlebers, after which it was granted to Edmund Earl of Cornwall, and next to Margaret his wife, who held it for thirteen years at the close of Edward's reign, and in the commencement of that of the second Edward, who granted it soon after to Gaveston his favourite, and to his wife. By Edward III. it was conferred upon Audley Earl of Gloucester, and afterwards upon Bohun Earl of Northampton. In the 13th of Richard II. the shrievalty was given to Edward Earl of Rutland; but from the twenty-first year of that monarch, 1397, it became an annual office, and, like the other counties, was held by various individuals of the rank of gentry.

It

It was not under the direction of a Lord Lieutenant, until the 1st of Elizabeth, 1558, when Henry Earl of Rutland was constituted to that office over this county and Nottinghamshire.

To enter into the various municipal jurisdictions would be beyond our plan; but there is a curious fact recorded by a letter from Thomas Barker of Lyndon, Esq. in the Archæologia*, which shews that the Crown possessed, or claimed, a power of taxation independent of Parliament, it appearing from many old MSS. in his possession, that in the reigns of James I. and of his son Charles, assessments were made upon this county for the Royal household. One of the orders for this purpose is so illustrative of the fact, that we shall insert it.

"To the high constables of the hundred of Martinsley.

These are in his Majesty's name, by virtue of his Highness commission to me directed, straightly to will and require you, and every of you, all excuses set apart, that presently upon sight hereof, you leavey and gather up within your said hundred and the liberties thereof, capons XII, chickens XII dozen, good, large, and serviceable, for his Majesty's most honourable household; and also one bushel of barley, or oats for pullen corn; and that you cause the said service of poultry to be brought safe in baskets with their legs untied, and good store of straw under them for bruising, to the sign of the Falcon, in Uppingham, on Monday the XIIth day of August, by eight of the clock.

Signed, Edw. Dickinson
His Majesty's Yeoman Purveyor of Poultry."

The PARLIAMENTARY ARRANGEMENTS of this county are on a very circumscribed scale, this being the only one which has no representative except Knights of the Shire, being without city, borough, or even corporation. The influence has been said to be in the various interests of the Earls of Exeter, Cardigan, Winchelsea, and that of the late Earl of Gainsborough; but this is saying nothing more than that men of large landed property, whether Peers or Commoners, will always have influence; and as there

* Archæologia, Vol. XI. p. 200.

there is such a division of property throughout the county, we have no doubt, if any just reason should require at any time an active opposition, that Rutland would shew itself as independent as any county in the kingdom.

In JUDICIAL AFFAIRS Rutland is in the *Midland Circuit.*

In the ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY of Rutland, we cannot help adverting to that observation of *Fuller*, when he says, "how it will appear to the reader I know not, but it is wonderful in my apprehension, that this county, so pleasant, so fruitful, almost in the middle of England, had not an absolute, or entire abbey-house therein; producing only two small appurtenances (of inconsiderable value) to convents in other counties, viz. *Oakham* under the custody of the Priory of St. Anne by Coventry, and *Brooke.*"

This he accounts for, by supposing, that perhaps because Edward the Confessor had given it by his will to the Church of Westminster, though that bequest was rescinded by William the Conqueror, other convents might be scrupulous of accepting the plunder of the church. We can scarcely believe, indeed, that the monks at any time would have shewn such delicacy, particularly when we advert to the frequent fact of the nobility leaving their dead bodies to particular churches, and the monks of other establishments actually seizing them *in transitu* by force, in order to enjoy the various benefits of alms, and of masses to be said for their souls: nay, they may be said to have seized the souls also, as their future destination was supposed to depend upon the clamorous petitions of these pious gentry.

The monasteries, noted above, will be more fully described under their respective heads; and we have only further to notice, that the county was always within the *Archdeaconry* of Northampton, and part of the diocese of Lincoln, until 1541, at which time, on the erection of the new *Bishopric of Peterborough*, the archdeaconry was given to that see. It is now a *Rural Deanery*, and is in the province of Canterbury.

In the reign of Edward III. 1371, there were but forty-four parishes in the county, and the whole were assessed, to the Parliamentary

liamentary aid granted for the French wars, in the sum of 255l. 4s. being equal to 5l. 16s. each. At present there are forty-nine churches, or parochial chapels, consisting of thirty-one rectories, twelve vicarages, and six chapels. Twelve of the parishes are impropriate; and five of them, Empingham, Ketton cum Tixover, and Lydington cum Caldecote, form three prebends of peculiar jurisdiction, and exempt from the Ordinary.

Of *County Proverbs* there is but one, of the "Rutlandshire Raddleman," of which Fuller observes, (and is copied by Grose, but without acknowledgment) "this perchance is Reddleman, a trade, and that a poor one peculiar to this county, whence men bring on their backs a parcel of red stones, or oker, which they sell to the neighbouring counties, for the marking of sheep."

The first *Hundred* of the county which we shall notice is that of

OKEHAM SOKE *.

It occupies nearly all the western side of the county, having Martinsley on the east, the river Welland parting it from Leicestershire on the south, Leicestershire also on its western limits, and Alsto hundred to the north.

It extends over 15,222 acres, (with a population of 3400, according to the census of 1801, which has undergone but little alteration since that period,) and contains the *Parishes* of Barleythorpe, Belton, Braunston, Brooke, Clipsham a detached parish on the north-east limit of the shire, Egleton, Flitteris, Langham, Oakham, and Wardley.

There is reason to believe, that this hundred was always a fee existing in the Crown, until it was granted by Edward II. to the wife of his favourite Gaveston; and afterwards it reverted to the same possession on Gaveston's disgrace.

OAKHAM

is the chief town in this hundred, and the capital of the shire; but it is even now little better than a village.

In the Domesday book the whole of this manor, with its hamlets

* This is so indiscriminately spelled *Okeham* and *Oakham*, that precision is impossible.

lots or "berews," is stated to be three miles in length, and one mile and eight quarantins, or half furlongs, in breadth; it also included three carucates of land in Knossington, in Leicestershire, besides a wood of one furlong in length, and half a furlong broad, belonging to the soke of Oakham, and held by the crown in demesne.

Editha, queen of Edward the Confessor, appears at that period to have held five hamlets with four carucates; the king held six carucates; the Villeins and Bordarii, amounting in number to fifty-seven, held thirty-seven and a quarter, and twenty acres of meadow; whilst one priest, and the church, held four bovates. In the Confessor's reign there had been sixteen carucates of plowed land, and a wood a mile in length, and half a mile broad, valued at forty pounds; besides which it appears that one Levenot held here a carucate, containing five bovates and six acres of meadow, then valued at twenty shillings; but which, at the survey, was in the hands of *Fulcherus de Malâ Operâ*, afterwards *Normanized* into *Maleverer*.

At the period of the survey, it is stated that Aubrey, the clerk, held the church of Oakham, and the lands thereunto appertaining, by the king's special grant and favour.

Such was the state of landed property in this manor at the period when first the present order of landed descent became established.

Soon after this we find this manor in possession of the family of Newburgh, then Earls of Warwick, descended from Henry de Newburgh, one of the Norman chieftains, and younger brother of Roger de Bellemonte, ancestor of the ancient Earls of Leicester. Soon after it was exchanged by Roger de Newburgh, Earl of Warwick, with Henry I. for Sutton in Warwickshire; and in the crown it continued until Henry II. granted it to Walcheline de Ferreris, a junior branch of the family of De Ferrars, Earls of Derby, creating him Baron of Oakham. He was generally supposed to have been the founder of the Castle, and to have made this the chief seat of his family: but he did not enjoy it long; for

 having

having accompanied the gallant Richard I, in his crusade to the Holy Land, he fell ill, and died during the romantic siege of Acre. The state of landed property at that period may be judged of from several circumstances connected with his tenure of this barony, which was by a service of one knight's fee and a half; and he, having trespassed upon the king's forests in these parts, (doubtless Liefield, or Leafield,) was not only fined one hundred marks, but also obliged to pay it, in the 22d of Henry II.; and it further appears that he was prosecuted in the first year of Richard I. for assarting eighty acres of land "in the forest of Rutland, now called Lifield Forest, viz. in the field of Oakham fifty-four acres; in the fields of Braunston twenty acres; and in the fields of Brooke five acres." He left a son, Hugh, and a daughter, Isabel; but Hugh dying without issue, the castle and manor went to his daughter, then wife of Roger Lord Mortimer. It seems, however, that the rapacious *John* did not allow him to hold it quietly; for in the seventh year of that monarch's reign, Mortimer was obliged to give seven hundred marks and seven palfreys, for livery and seizin of the manor and appurtenances. Isabel being second wife of Mortimer, his eldest son and heir by his first wife is thought to have claimed these estates; yet it may rather be supposed that at Isabel's death and failure of her issue, they reverted to the crown: for it is a fact well ascertained, that Henry III. in 1251, gave them to his brother Richard, Earl of Cornwall, then lately elected king of the Romans, as part payment for the sum of 500l. due to him on his marriage with Sanchia, daughter of the Count de Provence. The grant was to hold of the crown, to him, and his heirs by Sanchia; accordingly their son Edward, Earl of Cornwall, inherited the lands; but having died without issue in the reign of Edward I. his widow, Margaret, daughter of Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester, was permitted to hold it in dowry for life, along with other estates.

On her demise it again reverted to the Crown, and was, by Edward II. granted to his brother, Edmund of Woodstock, along with the castle and the shrievalty of the county. After the unhappy dethronement of Edward, Edmund, also Earl of Kent, rose in arms

for

for his restoration; but being attainted by the Parliament held under the influence of Roger Mortimer Earl of March, the then regent, was condemned, and actually suffered decapitation at Winchester during the minority of his nephew, Edward III.*

In the 11th year of Edward III. (the manor having again reverted to the crown,) a grant of the castle and manor, as well as of the shrievalty of Rutland, was made to William de Bohun, Earl of Northampton, to hold to him, and the heirs male of his body, under certain restrictions expressed in the grant: and these he held along with Egleton, Langham, and Hambledon.

The state of Oakham at this period may be easily judged from the following fact:

In the 14th year of Edward III. a † subsidy of a ninth and fifteenth being granted of the ninth lamb, ninth fleece, and ninth sheaf, for two years, it was enacted that all foreign merchants, and those dwelling in forests and wastes, should only pay one-fifteenth; and also that those who lived not of their own gain or store, should pay the same; but that the "poor boraile people," and those living by bodily labour, should not be taxed. When the inquisition was taken, the prior of St. Peter, and the other commissioners, declared on their oath that there were no merchants in Okeham, nor any others, who lived by agriculture, or by the profits from their cattle.‡

Humphry de Bohun Earl of Northampton, and son of the first grantee of that family, died seized of the manor in the 46th of Edward III.; but leaving only daughters, it is said to have reverted to the crown; and the various historians of Rutland declare, that it remained there until the reign of Richard II. Yet it is a curious fact, hitherto unnoticed, that in the 47th of Edward III. the manor belonged to William Haclut,§ for that is absolutely stated in the Calendarium Inquisitionum, taken in the

* Vide Calendarium Inquisitionum, 47th Edward III. Vol. II. p. 224.

† Vide Inquisitio Nonarum, p. 449.

‡ "Item dicunt q d nulli sunt mercatores ne aliique de agrorum culta neque de oribus suis viuant in eadem." Vide Inquisitio, p. 449.

§ Vide, Vol. II. p. 327. of the Calendarium.

47th of that reign; and it is also stated in the same record, that the castle and manor were held by Margaret, wife of Hugh de Audley Earl of Gloucester, and widow of Piers de Gaveston, and of Edward Earl of Cornwall, as already noticed; and from which, perhaps, it ought to be inferred, that it had been taken from her during her life, previous to its grant to the Earl of Kent by Edward II. and restored again to her in the subsequent reign.

Robert de Vere, Earl of Oxford, became such a favourite with Richard II. that he not only created him Marquis of Dublin and Duke of Ireland, but also gave him a grant of this castle and manor to hold for life, with remainder to the heirs of his body, in consideration, as the grant stated, of the great costs and expenses he had been at in various services in which that monarch had employed him; but the barons were so much enraged at this, and several other immense donations, that he was soon after obliged to fly, and the castle and manor forfeited to the crown. The successful party, however, were as anxious to enjoy some of the good things as the favourite could possibly be; and accordingly we find Thomas de Woodstock, Duke of Gloucester, and the most virulent enemy of the Earl of Oxford, in possession of these estates by a grant in the 12th year of Richard. He enjoyed them but one year; and, having died without issue male, the castle and manor were granted to Edward, the eldest son of Edmund of Langley, Duke of York, and fifth son of Edward III.* On his death, at the battle of Agincourt, as already noticed, these lands again reverted to the crown, where they continued until Henry VI. bestowed them upon Humphrey Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, and son of Edmund, Earl of Stafford, by Anne, the daughter and heiress of Thomas de Woodstock.

From the records of his possession, it appears that there were two parks then in the vicinity of Oakham; one at *Flitteris*, and the other at *Stone Park*. The duke being slain at the battle of Northampton in 1459, the duchess, (Ann, daughter of Ralph, first Earl of Westmoreland,) enjoyed the estates, and appointed William,

* The grant of the Castle, &c. may be seen at large in Madox's Baronia, page 140. Vide also Leland's Collect. Vol. II. p. 383.

William, Lord Hastings, steward of the manor, and constable of the castle; which, after her death in 1479, came to her grandson, Humphry, also Duke of Buckingham, who was beheaded at Salisbury in 1484, by the usurper Richard.

The castle and manor thus reverting to the crown, Richard bestowed them upon his favourite, Henry Lord Grey, of Codnovre,* who, from his gallantry in the service of Edward IV. and his attachment to the house of York, were inducements to Richard to secure him against the Lancastrian party; yet, on the accession of Henry VII. he did not forfeit, but continued in possession until his death, without issue, when they were recovered by Edward Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, in right of his father, the late duke; but he having been attainted on suspicion of treason, through the jealousy of the tyrannic Henry VIII. on the evidence of one Knevet, who had formerly served him as steward, and had been dismissed for improper conduct towards the tenantry, he was beheaded on Tower-hill in 1521, being the last duke of Buckingham of that family.

Henry soon after bestowed this castle and manor on his favourite, Thomas Cromwell, raised to the House of Peers, and, as asserted by Dugdale and Camden, as Baron of Oakham; yet it has been said, on the authority of an Act of Parliament, in the 31st of Henry VIII. that although he possessed these estates, he was Baron of Wimbledon in Surrey. He, like many of his predecessors in possession of these estates, also suffered death, being beheaded on Tower-hill in the 32d of his tyrannic master; yet the lands of Oakham were continued to his son, Gregory, who also received a new patent of creation as Lord Cromwell. In this family they continued for three generations, until the close of Elizabeth's reign, when the then Lord Cromwell had a license to dispose of the castle and manor to Sir John, the first

* In the Harl. Coll. No. 433, 1596, is a warrant "To the Fermours, Tenaunts, &c. of the castelle and lordship of Okeham in the countie of Rutland, late apperteigning to the Duc of Buckingham, to be obedient to Henry Lord Grey."

Lord Harrington. He left them to his widow as part of her dower; but her son, the second Lord Harrington, sold them to the well-known George Villiers, the profligate, yet witty, Duke of Buckingham. It is unnecessary here to recapitulate the various events of his life, or to record the frolics and debauchery which led to the dissipation of the immense wealth and estates he acquired by the favour of his sovereign. It is evident, however, that he had parted with them before his death, or that the last duke of that family disposed of them soon after to the Earl of Nottingham, ancestor of the Earl of Winchelsea, the present noble possessor.*

About the close of the seventeenth century, there were some considerable remains of the Ancient Castle; but these are all down except some parts of the outer walls, in which the loop-holes remain; and there are still extensive earthen-mounds, which, with the ditch, surround a large area, in which is the *Hall*, said not to be as old as the castle itself, but built out of its materials. Of this, however, we have considerable doubt: indeed, on a careful investigation of the place, we think it will appear that this was once the hall of the inhabited part of the castle. In one corner of the area, within the ruins, is a well surrounded by trees, evidently used for domestic purposes in the ancient fortress.

The Hall is now used for the public business of the county; and its interior contains both courts, civil and criminal, without any division, which must be very inconvenient, as the edifice is low, and not very large. That it is part of the ancient building is evident, from the door of entrance being Saxon; the other parts are Gothic; and some of it *is* but of modern date.

The tourist cannot fail being struck with the *Horse-shoes*, some of which, of an immense size, are nailed on the outside of the Castle-yard Gate; and others in the inside of the Hall. Of the

* Another possessor of the castle has escaped the notice of local historians: but in *Rotularum Abbreviatio in Curio Scaccarii*, p. 241, we find a grant to "Gilbetto de Holm de Castro de Okham cum Hondreris de Martinsley, &c." without date.

the latter, many are gilt, with the donor's name on them, and placed over the judges' seat on the criminal bench.

The old manorial custom from which this arises, took place at the first erection of the castle, on the grant to Walcheline de Ferrers, whose ancestor bore arms semée of horse-shoes, as designative of his office of master of the horse to the Dukes of Normandy.

In the early Norman period of our history, grants of customs, apparently rude, were often the marks of territorial power; and it seems to have been on this principle that the Lords de Ferrars were intitled to demand from every Baron, on his first passing through this lordship, a shoe from one of his horses, to be nailed upon the Castle-gate, the bailiff of the manor being empowered to stop the horses, (and carriages also of late years,) until service was performed. The custom is still preserved, but has long been compounded in money as a kind of fee to the bailiff, who takes care to be provided with shoes of different sizes, in proportion to the generosity of the donor. Of these now in existence there are none two hundred years old; and it has been said by some, that the custom is not of much older date; but that must be erroneous, as the custom is recorded by early historians. A tourist, in the year 1796, observed that many of the shoes were gone; for the former clerk of the market had been accustomed to take down several old ones when a new one was put up, and which he gave in exchange to save himself expense; but he adds, "the gentleman who *now* holds the office rescued a number from the hands of a smith, which he caused to be fixed against the jury-box within the castle."

To those who are amateurs in horse-shoes, it may be pleasing to add that they may now find here every variety in size, from the dimensions of a breakfast table to the measure of a *Brobdignagian* palfrey; most of them gilt; some of them given by judicial peers; and one very splendid one left by the Duke of York in 1788, &c.

Within the precincts of the castle there was formerly a *Free Chapel*, whose patronage was in the territorial lords. The salary

lary and other privileges, in Catholic times, were considerable; but we believe it has long been in disuse.

The *Manorial Court* belonging to the castle has its jurisdiction over the parish called the "Lord's Hold;" and the "Dean's Hold," the other parish, is under the jurisdiction of a court held by the Chapter of Westminster once in three years. The jurisdiction of the first of these is considerable, as it extends not only over Braunston, Wardley, and Belton, in this county, but also over Thorpesackville, and Twiford, in Leicestershire. At it are also chosen the parish officers; and all the inhabitants are bound to appear once a year, and pay the sum of one penny, or be fined at the pleasure of the clerk of the court, who also receives the acknowledgements of all the freeholders, copyholders, and wastholders. The Dean's Court have also the power of choosing parish officers for that part under their jurisdiction; and their tenants are mostly copyholders.

The *Church* is deserving the notice of the tourist, being a very handsome structure, kept in excellent order, and having a very elegant tower and spire. It is an ancient Gothic edifice, plain in the interior, and doing great credit to the parish by its extreme neatness. Its antiquity, and even its founder, are unknown; but it seems not older than the reign of Henry VI.: it is dedicated to All Saints; and it is said that the spire was erected by Roger Flore, a great benefactor to the town, who died about 1483. The Dean and Chapter of Westminster still possess the great tythes; the living of course is a vicarage, but is not now under the patronage of that ecclesiastical body.

There is authority to say, that in the 12th of Henry III. the Abbot of Westminster presented Gilbert Marshal to this church; and in the 29th of Edward I. the Abbot and Convent presented John de Langham to the same benefice. By an inquisition taken at that period, this living appeared to be a rectory, and not a vicarage, and to be possessed of all the altarage of the church of Okeham, and the chapels of Langham, Egleton, Brook, Gunthorpe, and Thorpe, with the small tythes belonging to the altarage

altarage in any wise, with a moiety of all the hay of all the parishioners appertaining to the said church of Okeham and chapels aforesaid; as also one carucate of land and its appurtenances; a mansion on the south side of the church of Okeham; certain tythes of corn, of the value of three marks; and of one mark paid by the chapel of Knessington to the church of Okeham.

This inquisition was taken in 1300; and yet in the "Taxatio Ecclesiastica," by order of Pope Nicholas IV. nine years before, in 1291, we find a note of "Ecclesia de Okeham, 70. 0 0. *Vicaria* ejusdem 20. 0 0." from which it would appear that it was then a vicarage, and *not* a rectory.

From this period until the dissolution of the abbey of Westminster, which took place in 1549, in the early part of the reign of Edward VI. the patronage and presentation of this living continued in the Abbot and Convent; yet, though the Dean and Chapter, their Protestant successors, were permitted to keep the tythes, the advowson of the vicarage was granted by the youthful monarch to Nicholas Ridley, Bishop of London, and his successors for ever; an arrangement, however, set aside about a century ago by the exchange of this living with the ancestor of the present Earl of Winchelsea, for the two advowsons of the rectories of Leigh and Prittlewell, in the county of Essex, confirmed by Act of Parliament in 1696.

There are no *Monuments* of modern date that require particular notice; nor are those of ancient date of any antiquarian importance, except in their immediate locality. We must, however, mention one or two, as connected with the history of the place.

One of the oldest is on the south side of the chancel, formerly where a chapel stood in Catholic times, to the memory of William Waryn, a resident here, and a merchant of the staple at Calais. A slight sketch of his will, dated in 1499, will serve to throw some light on the customs of those times. He first bequeaths five pounds to the high altar of the parish church, for tythes and duties forgotten, besides the sums to be paid to the officiating priests at his funeral, and to the poor who should say

prayers

prayers for his soul. His next most anxious care seems to have been for the souls of himself, his father and mother, and in short "all Christian souls in the parish church of Okeham," for twenty years to come; and thus to secure their comfort for that period at least, he bequeaths 200l. for the purpose of finding two priests, who should be able and willing to offer up prayers for their benefit. Having thus taken care of the souls of his townsmen, he endeavours to mend their ways whilst alive, by leaving ten marks for the repair of the highways and bridges of Oakham; also forty shillings to the Guilds of the Holy Trinity, and of our Lady, of both which he was a member. He then leaves his lands and tenements in Oakham to his wife Agnes, and to his children after her; and concludes with a bequest of his dwelling-house to the vicar and churchwardens, provided that the said vicar and his successors shall, during the mass on every Sunday throughout the year, commemorate his soul, and the souls of his father and mother; but should this be neglected, then the house to be sold, and the money to be distributed in works of mercy, and deeds of charity, for the welfare of his soul.

In the body of the church are several grave-stones for the family of *Flore*, who seem, about the fifteenth century, to have been of good repute in this town.

Amongst other epitaphs is one on *Anne Burton*, who died in 1642, at the early age of fifteen, which, in its style of composition, is much superior to most of the poetical effusions of that period.

"Reader! stand back: dull not this marble shrine
With irreligious breath: the stone's divine,
And does enclose a wonder; beauty, wit,
Devotion, and virginity with it.
Which, like a lilly fading in its prime,
Wither'd and left the world. Deceitful Time
Cropt it too soon: and Earth, the self same womb
From whence it springs, is now become its tomb;
Whose sweeter soul a flower of matchless price,
Transplanted is from hence to Paradise."

This

This church is indebted to Anne (Kelway,) Lady Harrington, for a library, for which, as Mr. Wright informs us, she built a convenient place in the church, and furnished it with about two hundred Latin and Greek folios, principally consisting of the Fathers, Councils, Schoolmen, and Divines; this was intended for the use of the vicar, and for the accommodation of the neighbouring clergy.

The FREE-SCHOOL is situated in the church-yard, and is a plain but convenient building, apparently well attended, and respectably kept up according to its original intent. It was built and endowed in the reign of Charles I. (its statutes bearing date the 17th of June 1625,) though begun in the reign of Elizabeth by the Rev. Robert Johnson, Archdeacon of Leicester, and holding the living of North Luffenham in this county. He exerted himself much in procuring benefactions for this purpose; and he also received from Queen Elizabeth some concealed lands, which enabled him to complete his design here, and also at Uppingham. He placed the school under the direction of twenty-four governors, seven of whom were to be perpetual, by virtue of their offices as Bishops of London and Peterborough, Deans of Peterborough and Westminster, Archdeacon of Northampton, and Masters of St. John's and Trinity Colleges, in Cambridge; which seven were also to have the power of electing the remaining seventeen upon all future vacancies. The salary for the Master was settled at 24l. per annum, and his qualification was to be that of Master of Arts; along with him, an Usher was to have 12l. per annum; and seven of the scholars were to be entitled for seven years to an exhibition at Cambridge of forty shillings per annum each. He also appointed a receiver of the rents, &c. with a salary of five pounds per annum; and ordered that at the two annual audits, each governor present should be allowed 4s. 4d. for his dinner, and a pair of gloves.

The CHARITY SCHOOL was founded in 1711, this being one of the parishes mentioned in the benefaction, appointing 60l. per annum for the education of the poor children. Its plan is to teach

teach and clothe twelve poor boys, and as many girls, who are also taught spinning, and other modes of industry; and there is also an additional sum of 10l. to put out the poor children as apprentices. Its usefulness has been much extended by subsequent contributions.

The RELIGIOUS FOUNDATIONS of Oakham have not been very numerous; the principal one of ancient times was the *College*, or *Hospital*, dedicated to St. John the Evangelist and St. Anne, about the year 1390, in the reign of Richard II. from which monarch William Dalby, of Exton, merchant, received a licence to build and endow an hospital for two chaplains,* one of whom was to be warden or master, and for twelve poor men, who were to pray for the good estate of Richard, and his queen, Isabella; and, after their demise, for their souls, and for the soul of Anne, Richard's first queen; also for the preceding king's and queen's souls, (Edward III. and his wives) and for the good estate of William Dalby, the founder, and Agnes, his wife; and after their decease, not only for their souls, but for *all the souls* of all the faithful deceased; so that the founder had what may be called "a lumping pennyworth," for he only settled upon the hospital one messuage and two acres of land in Oakham; but his licence permitted him to assign the advowson, patronage, and collation, to the prior and convent of Carthusians of St. Anne in Coventry, founded by the king. This royal licence also empowered, or rather *ordered*, the prior and convent to give and assign out of their possessions a yearly rent of 40l. to the custos or warden of the hospital, for the support of the foundation for ever.

This is the statement of its establishment by Tanner, Dugdale, and others; but the *Magna Britannia* speaking of it in the early part of last century, (in which they have been followed by Gough, and subsequent topographers,) say, that though it is still in being, yet the then governors pretended that it was of a new foundation, and consequently of a different patronage, notwithstanding that William Dalby's arms were still to be seen in the hall

* Tanner's Monasticon.

ball windows. In consequence of this (for though valued in the 26th of Henry VIII. at 12l. 12s. 11d. it is asserted not to have been dissolved,) its original intent and purpose are said to have been departed from in a greater degree than the necessary change consequent upon the Reformation.

It is evident, however, that this charity is of an *older* foundation than is supposed, either by antecedent historians or their copyists; for after a close research and investigation, it appears to have existed in the reign of Edward III. In the *Calendarium Inquisitionum ad quod Damnum*, taken in that monarch's reign, under the head "Okeham," we find the following passage, which is in itself conclusive of the fact.

"William Dalby de Okeham et aliis dederunt custodi hospitalis Sci Johnis ibm unum messuagium unum toftum, &c. in auxilio sustentacõis sue et unius capellani et duodecim pauperium," *&c.*—so that the licence in Richard's reign was only a confirmation and extension of an older establishment, adding to it one chaplain, and extending its precatory jurisdiction into purgatory.

This Dalby, the founder, had a daughter and heiress, Catharine, who married Roger Flore, of Oakham, Esq. who received a licence from Henry V. the Bishop of Lincoln, and others, to make several alterations and additions to the former statutes. It is a curious fact, however, that in reciting the foundation of the hospital, he carries it no further than the date of the licence in Richard's reign, so that it would appear as if that was considered a new foundation annulling and absorbing all antecedent regulations. He describes the hospital as being situated in a certain place called Chamberlain's Croft; and he also claims a reserved power belonging both to Dalby and himself, (who, by the founder's will, was to become the patron,) of declaring, correcting, reforming, and adding, to the original statutes. By these additional regulations he gives power to the vicar to fill up all vacancies, either in case of a minority, or if the heirs should at any future time be remiss in filling them up; but if the vicar

should also be negligent, or be beyond the seas, then the power to go to the abbot and convent of Westminster; and in case that abbey should not have an abbot appointed at the time, the presentation was then to go to the abbot of Ouston in Leicestershire. He also divided the annual sum of forty pounds, according to the following schedule: to the custos or warden, 6l. 13s. 4d.; to the chaplain, 5l.; to each poor man, 10½d per week, amounting to 27l. 6s.; to the vicar of Okeham for a composition made with him and confirmed by the bishop, perhaps for tythes, 3s. 4d.; and the remaining balance of 16s. 8d. he directed to be laid out in repairs.* This is still called the Old Hospital; but it is rather curious that Mr. Gough should have confounded it with

The NEW HOSPITAL founded by Archdeacon Johnson, as seems to be the case, from his saying that Mr. Johnson recovered the foundation, and added the free-school. This latter establishment is under the same governors as the school; the school-master is warden of the hospital, for which he receives, according to the statutes of the founder, six pounds per annum; the usher is sub-warden, and his duty is to read prayers twice a week in the chapel, for which he receives three pounds per annum. The founder also ordered that there should be in the hospital fifteen poor men and one woman, with a stipend of three pounds per annum each; and he stipulated expressly that eight of the inmates should be townsmen of Oakham.

The other CHARITABLE DONATIONS have been numerous, both to the *Church* and *Poor*.

Mr. Robert Blackburn, who died some time after 1500, desired his body to be buried in the church, and that his best living creature should be given as a mortuary along with it; to this he added twelve-pence to the high-altar, for tythes forgotten; thirteen

* This interference seems, however, to have taken place with the consent of the convent at Coventry; for in the *Calendarium Rotulorum Patentium*, p. 252, we find, "ampla exemplificatio Indenturæ fac' inter Priorem Carthus' juxta Covent' Rogerum Flore de Okeham, et custodem hospitalis S Johnis Evangelistæ de Okeham."

teenpence to be distributed in alms for the good of his soul; two shillings à piece to six priests for several successive days, for the performance of his obsequies, and a penny a piece each day to the clerks; three shillings and fourpence to the bells of Oakham church; and twelvepence to the Guilds of All Saints and St. Mary's, both in this town.

The Dowager Lady Harrington, in the reign of James I. purchased a rent charge of 100l. per annum, out of the Manor of Cotesmore. This she settled upon certain trustees for various pious uses; and, amongst others, ordered that 32l. per annum should be distributed by the vicar and overseers of the parish, among such of the poor as should be tenants, or undertenants, of that part of the manor, then her property.

In 1689, the sum of 50l. was left to the poor, by Endymion Canning, an old cavalier, and a captain of horse, during the unhappy wars of Charles's reign.

In 1692, Mrs Parthenia Lowman, widow, of London, gave 100l. for a perpetual stock to the town of Oakham; and ordered that ten shillings should be annually appropriated for a sermon in the parish church on Ash-wednesday, and the remainder of the interest to be given to the poor and sick; three-fourths of it to those of the Lord's hold, and one-fourth to those of the Dean's hold.

Ten pounds per annum were also given by Henry Foster, Esq. of Thistleton, to the poor of Oakham, for the purpose of apprenticing their children; to be paid out of his manors of Swinshead and Buckminster, in Lincolnshire *.

Connected with the *Church*, and the *Charitable Concerns* of this parish, was an ancient custom before the Reformation, for the pious and devout to go on a *Pilgrimage to our Lady's Well*, which is a fine spring, still in existence, and preserving the same

 name,

* This seems to have been the benevolent gentleman, whose name is not otherwise mentioned, and who gave the sixty pounds per annum amongst six various parishes.

name, about a quarter of a mile from the town. The foundations of houses were existing about a century ago; but of what kind, or for what specific purpose erected, there is no record. It is detailed, indeed, in a record in the First Fruits Office, that many of the profits and advantages of the Vicarage of Oakham arose from the Obventions, and Pilgrimages which took place to this well, in honour of the Virgin Mary, and St. Michael the Archangel. This holy juggling, however, has long been at an end, and with it have ceased the pilgrimages, offerings, &c. &c.

Amongst the few *Public buildings* which remain to be noticed, is the COUNTY GAOL, which stands near the ancient boundaries of the castle, and is a modern brick and stone building, airily situated, and constructed of an octagonal shape, upon the modern Bridewell plan. When the benevolent Howard visited the *Old Gaol* some years ago, he found it thatched, and *twice he found it empty!* Its custody seems at that period to have been in some measure hereditary, for the then gaoler's father, grandfather, and great grandfather, had held the office; and we believe that this, certainly not very desirable, place is still in the same family. When visited last year, its unfortunate inmates were few in number; a circumstance resulting no doubt from the county being principally *agricultural*, and not a *manufacturing* district. It is also the *Town Gaol* and *County Bridewell*.

At the eastern limit of the town there is an old seat of Colonel Noel; it stands low, but has a very good view of Burley hill and Park, and might be rendered a very handsome and commodious habitation.

Near it is a large *Riding house* with stables, originally intended by Colonel Noel for the service of his Majesty; and on the opposite side of the road there is a neat and pleasant *Bowling Green*.

The POPULATION of this town, in 1801, consisted of 1056, in the *Lord's Hold*, occupying 225 houses, and containing 491 males, and 565 females, of whom 156 were engaged in trade, and in manufactures. The returns from the *Dean's Hold* included

cluded the hamlets of Brooke and Barleythorpe, and were estimated at 557 in 132 houses, being 283 males, and 274 females, of whom 74 were occupied in manufactures and trade.

The returns of POOR'S RATES, in 1803, were as high as 6s. 6d. in the pound, amounting for the whole rate to 706l.; though in 1776 they had only been 175l. 12s. 4d. The persons relieved *out* amounted to 27; those *in* the workhouse to 23: the expenditure for the out-poor amounting to 352l. 14s. 4d.; and for those in the house to 322l. No materials for industry were supplied except in the house; they cost 8l. 16s. 6d. and the earnings amounted to 22l. 19s.

Out of these rates, the *Law Expenses* amounted to fifteen guineas; and 45l. 15s. 2d. were paid for various charges on behalf of the county.

At that period there were four Friendly Societies in Oakham, containing 269 members; and there were thirty children in the Schools of Industry.

In the reign of Henry III. by that monarch's grant, there were two MARKETS, on Monday and Saturday; also two FAIRS, on St. John the Baptist, August the 29th, and Holy Cross, 3d May. But the Monday market and the Holy Cross Fair are become obsolete, being in disuse ever since the time of Henry VI. At present the market is on *Saturday*, and is very well attended. Its site is commodious; the market cross being covered with an octagonal roof, and serving for a market house. The shambles also are roomy, clean, and neat.

The *Fairs* are now, on the 16th of March for horned cattle and sheep; 6th of May for the same, and a show of stallions; 9th of September for horned cattle, sheep, and swine. There are also some *Meetings* lately established for sale of cattle; these are on the 25th of January, 13th of February, 14th of April, 14th of June, 3d of July, 18th of August, 19th of November, 15th of December; and if any of these fall on a Sunday, they are to be held on the following day.

Though Oakham cannot be said to have improved, yet it is evi-

dent that it is improving; partly from the increased intercourse arising from these agricultural meetings, and partly from its new line of water communication. Much, however, remains yet to be done, and Mr. Parkinson, in his Survey, says, with great justice, that it would derive great advantages from a complete inclosure of all the lands in the parish and vicinity, being a market town, having the convenience of a navigation, "and being the *most improvable Lordship I ever viewed;* the land being not only superior to every other parish in the county, but perhaps to any in the kingdom, and would certainly double its present rental, having not only some of the best tillage land, but some as fine fattening land as shall be found in any district."

We have already noticed several of the *ancient Families* of this place, to which we may add, that the family of *Flore*, or Flower, was an ancient and eminent name, and had a seat in this town, together with a very handsome freehold estate, consisting of ten messuages, an hundred acres of land, ten acres of meadow, and all their appurtenances, held of the lord of the manor by fealty only. Roger Flore, son-in-law of William Dalby already mentioned, was of this family, and was of great note in the town. His will forms a singular memorial of ancient customs, and in it he bequeaths his body to the parish church, giving his best animal to the vicar for a mortuary, together with ten shillings for forgotten tythes. To the chaplain he gives two shillings, and one shilling to every other chaplain inhabiting the town. There were three guilds, (resembling our Friendly Societies) in Oakham in his time, and to each of these, Holy Trinity, Blessed Virgin, and St. Michael, he gives forty shillings; and to every order of friars at Stamford, the Carthusians at Coventry, the Abbey of Westminster, and the Prior of Laund, the sum of six marks, for which they were to pray for the souls of Catharine his late wife, of William his father, of Ellen his mother, and of Edmund Duke of York. He next gives forty pounds to a certain number of chaplains, whom his executors were to nominate, in order that they might *pray* (for *point d' Argent, point de Suisse*, was the

 order

order of the day) as an additional force, for his own soul, the soul of King Henry V. and all the souls already provided for. Besides these legacies, he gave to the poor, who should assist in praying at his obsequies, the sum of fifty marks; to the alms-house, or hospital, fifty shillings for the repair of the chapel, and for ornaments to the altar, besides fourpence to every poor man in the house; fifty shillings for the repair of the high roads, bridges, and causeways; and a gown of Coventry frieze, and a new shirt, to each of twenty poor people of the town.

It appears this very pious and charitable gentleman had farmed the impropriate tythes of the parish under the Abbot of Westminster; he left a shilling to every monk of that abbey who was in priest's orders, and eightpence to those who were not. To the Great Guild at Coventry, he bequeathed forty shillings; to the Prior and Canons of Brooke, thirteen shillings and fourpence; the same sum to the nuns of Langley, and of Huntingdon, and to the Prior and Canons of Newstead, near Stamford. To the master of the chauntry at Manton, whom he appointed one of his executors, he bequeathed his own pair of beads, with ten *Aves* of silver, and a *gilt Paternoster*, praying him to be mindful of him when he went through "our Lady's Psalter" with them. To his second wife, who survived him, he left two manors in Lincolnshire, but that was on condition of her taking on her the *Mantle and Ring, and vowing Chastity;* this perhaps was the most difficult condition prescribed in his will; she had borne him five sons and one daughter.

The family of *Browne* seems also to have been of ancient repute in this town and county. Sir John Brown, who was Lord Mayor of London, in the reign of Edward IV. (1481) was son of John Brown of this place. He died in 1497, and his son Sir William Brown was Lord Mayor in each of the reigns of the two successive Henrys.

But the most remarkable character in the Biography of this place was *Jeffery Hudson*, whom Fuller, not inaptly, calls the least man of the least county in England. Mr. Wright, who

states him to be memorable on many accounts, says he was the son of one John Hudson, a person of a very mean condition, but of a lusty stature, as were all his other children. Jeffery was born in 1619, and when above seven years old, and only eighteen inches in height, he was taken into the family of the Duke of Buckingham at Burley on the Hill, as a rarity of nature; and the court being there about that time in progress, he was served up at table in a cold pie. After the marriage of Charles I. with the Princess Henrietta Maria of France, he was presented to the queen, and became her dwarf; and it must have been about that time that the king's great porter, during a masque at Whitehall, pulled him out of his pocket to the great surprize of the company.

Soon after he was sent to France to bring over the queen's midwife, but on his passage was captured by a French pirate, and carried prisoner to Dunkirk, on which occasion Davenant wrote a mock-heroic poem, with the title of "Jeffreidos." In this he says, that when the vessel was captured, this great little man

> "Resolv'd to hide him where they sooner might
> Discover him, with smelling than with sight.
> Each eye was now employ'd, no man could think
> Of any uncouth nook, or narrow chink,
> But straight they sought him there; in holes not deep
> But small, where slender maggots us'd to creep;
> At last they found him close, beneath a spick
> And almost span-new-pewter-candlestick!"

Being liberated by the French court, he returned to England, and, during the civil wars, was a Captain of Horse, but accompanied his Royal mistress on her return to her native country, where he challenged a Mr. Crofts, brother to Lord Crofts, who came armed to the ground only with a squirt, which so enraged the little hero, that he insisted on fighting with pistols on horseback, and actually shot his antagonist. For this he was expelled the court; but after the Restoration he returned to England, and, it

it has been said, was made Captain of a Ship of War. This, however, is rather unlikely; yet it is a fact, that he went to sea, and was taken by a Turkish pirate, who carried him into Barbary, where he was sold as a slave, and continued in that state for many years.

He was at length redeemed, and returning to England, was supported by a pension from the Buckingham family, and some other benefactions. During the troublesome times of 1678, he was suspected; and being known to be a Roman Catholic, he was arrested in the metropolis, and confined for some time in the Gatehouse at Westminster; and, though soon released, died shortly afterwards. It is said that he never grew between his seventh and thirtieth years, but after thirty shot up to three feet nine inches; which rapid increase he himself attributed to the frequent beatings he had received whilst in slavery.

Barleythorpe, which lies about two miles north-west of Oakham, on the Melton Mowbray road, is a hamlet of that parish, and deserves notice merely for having had the same Manorial Lords ever since the time of Edward the Confessor, with the exception of a short interval immediately on the dissolution of the monasteries; for the Abbot and Convent of Westminster are now represented in their territorial rights by the Dean and Chapter, to whom the manor was confirmed by Charter of Queen Elizabeth, in 1559.

Langham, about one mile further on the same road, was also considered as a hamlet of Oakham, at the Norman Survey, and seems to have followed the same course of territorial possession, whether by grant or purchase, until the reign of Queen Elizabeth; when having been settled by Lord Cromwell, on his second son, Sir Gregory, he sold it under authority of a licence from Queen Elizabeth to the ancestor of the late Gainsborough family.

The *Church*, or *Chapel*, is an ancient building, and once contained much armorial glass, with the shields of the kings of the East Angles, of the Beauchamps Earls of Warwick, and the an-

cient families of Hastings, Clare, &c. and here were also two very ancient alabaster monuments of the fourteenth century, but almost obliterated. The village itself is considerable, having 102 houses, with a population of nearly 500, of whom about 40 were returned as employed in manufactures and trade. This is one of the parishes which shares ten pounds per annum for the education of its poor children.

The vicinity of this village is mostly open land, and consists of swelling hills, presenting a pleasing variety of surface.

Rakesboro Hill is noticed in all the county maps; but it has nothing peculiar to distinguish it, except a very fine prospect over the vale of Catmose, and the plains of Leicestershire.

Braunston, anciently Bravanston, lies on the borders of Leafield Forest, of which it was a part, but not of as old a date as the Norman Survey. Its first mention is in the reign of John, when it belonged to the family of Menil; and soon after, part of it, by a Royal grant, was the property of the Falconers; of whom, Robert de Falconer, in the reign of Edward I. resided here, and had summons to attend that monarch with horse and arms, to Berwick upon Tweed, in his Scottish wars.

The Chiseldens seem also to have had possession here about the time of Henry V. by a marriage with Anne, daughter and heiress of William de Burghe; and in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, a grant was made to Edward Wymarke of London, of the *Wisp*, which has been considered of sufficient consequence to be marked even in modern county maps, and yet is nothing more than a parcel of field of woodland and pasture, about fourteen acres in extent. This latter parcel of ground came in the reign of James I. to other owners, who passed it in trust to Barton Burton of Oakham, for the express purpose of being employed for the good of the freeholders of this town who have common in it; also for the support of a preacher for Braunston chapel, and for its repairs; and for the repair of high roads, and relief of the poor as the trustees should think fit. This trust was confirmed in 1636, and we believe still remains in force.

The

The church, or rather chapel, (belonging to Hamilton parish in another hundred) contains nothing curious, except some monumental memorials of the ancient family of Chiseldine, who flourished here and at Uppingham in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

Pursuing the route to the southward, and through Leafield forest, and by the borders of Leicestershire, the tourist will pass through a well inclosed, well cultivated, and well wooded country, towards *Belton*, another small town within the forest, but of a more recent date than the Norman Survey. It is first noticed in the reign of Edward II. when it was the property of the very ancient family of Blount, afterwards Lords Montjoy. In the reign of Edward III. it was of sufficient consequence to have a fair, that monarch having granted to the Blounts, then Lords of it, a licence for three days, on the eve, day, and morrow, of St. James the Apostle, but with the special exception, that it should not be prejudicial to any of the neighbouring ones. This fair is, however, discontinued.

Belton passed from the Blounts to Haselwood, and afterwards to Verney, which latter family had a good seat here.

The church is a chapelry to Wardley, and has an ancient monument of the Haselwoods; and much of the land in former times was enjoyed by various monastic establishments.

Wardley, like most of the other towns upon the Forest, was not in existence at the Norman Survey, and though now a rectory, but of uncertain origin, was then, according to the various authorities, merely a member of some of the neighbouring places. It first appears on manorial record, as the property of the family of De Murdoc, from whom it went by an heiress to Baskerville, alias Boyville.

The village has nothing curious, but is extremely pleasant, being seated in *Deepdale*, or rather on its borders, and on the verge of that winding valley through which runs the river Eye, separating Rutland from Leicestershire. The broken ground, the rich cultivation, and some considerable planting, alogether

pro-

produce a fine effect, and form a rich foreground to the distances of Leicestershire, as viewed from the rising grounds between Uppingham and Deepdale; the latter of which, though not very extensive, is capable of being made as charming a spot as any in the county. It is a deep vale, of rather meandering course, partly open ground, and partly inclosures, and presenting ideas of almost monastic retirement.

Brooke, near Oakham, was formerly part of the forest of Leafield, and then written "Broc." It seems indeed to have been one of the hamlets of Oakham at the Norman Survey, if it was then in existence as a village; but it is mentioned in the time of Walcheline de Ferrars, who had taken possession of part of the lands here without legal authority, for which he afterwards received an acquittal, accompanied by a grant. Near this place, says Mr. Wright, "was situated a small priory, yet the only monastery of either sex in this county. They were canons regular of St. Augustine."* It was founded by Hugh de Ferrars, son of Walcheline, in the time of Richard I. dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, and given, along with the manor of Brooke, to the prior and monks at Kenilworth, who continued Lords of the Manor until the Dissolution.

Though its establishment was but small, and at the same time subordinate; yet it had various grants, which may be seen in Dugdale's Monasticon, Vol. II. page 130, Edit. 1661; and in No. 433, of the Harl. Coll. it appears, that these *disciples of poverty* were not content with Heaven and Earth, but must have water also, as there is a grant "to the pryour and convent of the frere prechears in the towne of Rutlande, for fishing with one nette in the *water of Clowde*, from Rutlande to the sea," in the first year of Richard III.†

At the Dissolution, in the 28th of Henry VIII. Tanner says, that this monastery was valued at forty pounds. Speed and Dugdale differ

* Leland, Vol. I. p. 74, says there were only a Prior and two Canons.

† We have been unable to ascertain what is intended by the "Water of Clowde."

differ from him respecting the value, as they do indeed in most other cases; but these differences may arise from some of these writers copying from the original *Rolls of Survey*, and others selecting their value from the *Liber Regis*. When the Dissolution took place, Roger Horwell was the prior, and had ten pounds assigned him out of the revenues *.

The priory and lands were granted to Anthony Cope, Esq. who sold them to Andrew Noel of Dalby, in Leicestershire, Esq. one of the gentlemen pensioners to Queen Elizabeth, and ancestor of the late Gainsborough family, and whose son Edward was not only created a baronet by King James I. but also called by the same monarch to the House of Peers, by the title of Baron Noel of Ridlington.

The church is supposed to have been that belonging to the monastery, for it is not in the King's books, nor is it recorded either as a rectory, or vicarage. It contains an old monument of James's time for Charles Noel, son of the first purchaser, of that name, who died in 1619. Here also was a mansion of the Noels; but scarcely any thing remains of it.

GUNTHORPE is marked in the maps as a village; it was so formerly, most certainly, but is no longer deserving of the name.

EGLETON is a small, but cheerful village, seated among inclosed grounds, in the vale of Catmose. It belonged formerly to the Lords of Oakham, or to the Crown, as the property of that manor and castle went through its various charges; but was afterwards in the possession of Browne, Harbottle, and latterly of the Winchelsea family.

The church, which is a chapel of ease to Oakham, is a re-edification of a more ancient building, and from an extensive and very antique range of Gothic arches on its northern side, it seems to be the remains of a very extensive edifice. Its tower is quite modern, and has a small but neat spire, which forms a good object in crossing the vale.

Here

* Willis's History of Abbies, II. 139.

Here was a Guild, which, in Willis's History of Abbies, is said to have paid 3l. 19s. 6d. to Sir Thomas Kelso in 1553. This *Knight*, however, was nothing more than the Guild Priest, who is then stated to be seventy years of age, unable to serve a cure, poor, but of good repute among his neighbours. In the Survey of Edward VI, it appears that this Guild was founded for the maintenance of one priest to sing mass there *for ever*, and had an endowment of lands in various parts of the county of the value of 5l. 8s. and 6d. out of which 1l. 9s. annually were paid to different persons, and the remainder to the priest. At that period, Egleton must have been a very small place, as it is stated to have had only four "housling people," or communicants; and its lands were then dissolved and granted by the Crown, to hold of the manor of Eye, in Suffolk, at that time a Royal honour, or manor.

Part of these lands was a messuage in West Street in Oakham, with two yard-lands in the common fields in that parish, rented at 1l. 13s. 4d.; there were also a cottage opposite to the market-cross, rented at fourteen shillings, a void piece of ground containing half a rod, adjoining to the stone wall belonging to the cottage, valued at two shillings, and a small piece of ground containing by estimation thirty feet in length, and six feet in breadth, adjoining to the east end of the orchard attached to the cottage, of the yearly value of fourpence. Such were the humble possessions of this humble society, which seems to have borne some slight resemblance to our modern *Friendly Societies*, though established for very different purposes.

These ancient *Guilds* are supposed to derive their name from the Saxon word "Geld," signifying *Money;* the members associated for purposes of religion, or charity, contributing money and lands, and afterwards the associations for commercial purposes assumed the same name. The religious and charitable Guilds had frequent meetings, particularly on the anniversary of their patron Saint, when they elected their various officers, and they always maintained a priest, whose duty it was to say

masses

masses both for the good estate of the living members, and also for the souls of the departed.

CLIPSHAM, though in this hundred, is yet on the north-east verge of the county, a circumstance arising from the events of its territorial possession: for in the reign of Edward II. it was in the hands of William de la Zouch, Baron of Harringworth, and held by him from the crown as part of the honor of Oakham, by the service of the twentieth part of a knight's fee. The editors of Magna Britannia are, however, of opinion that it belonged to Oakham hundred previous to this, which was in the reign of Henry IV.; and they take occasion from this to notice an observation of Sir William Dugdale in his Warwickshire, where, speaking of various parts of one county being *insulated*, as it were, in another, he accounts for it by supposing that in all cases, even where there are no existing records, these parts or parcels were formerly the possessions of great landholders, who, in order to avoid trouble at their manor courts by their estates being under different municipal jurisdictions, got leave from the crown to have these small extraneous portions removed *municipally* from the counties in which they were locally situated.

The family of Zouch having forfeited at the battle of Bosworth, the then baron being attainted in the first parliament called by Henry VII. these lands were granted to David Philips; but afterwards coming to the crown were held by the Harrington family, from whose heir they went to Archdeacon Johnson, the founder of Oakham Free-school, or at least to his nephew; since which they have several times changed hands.

The church is a rectory: it is of some antiquity, and has some armorial glass in its windows; but this, in the opinion of Mr. Blore, must have been removed here from the long ruined church at Pickworth, as it bears a reference to the bearings of the landholders of that parish.

Here was a chauntry founded by De La Zouch; and an extract from its Survey will shew the rapacity with which the property of the various religious foundations, however small, was seized

seized on by Henry VIII. and his horde of plunderers, who, in their great zeal for the destruction of superstition, seem to have had no objection to fill their pockets with its spoils. This Survey, taken in the second year of Edward VI. says, that the chauntry was "founded for the maintenance of one priest *to sing there for ever;* hath lands and tenements in the counties of Rutland and Lincoln, to the value of one hundred and six shillings and eight-pence, whereof rents resolute are four-pence only; so that there remains clear for the portion of the chauntry priest, Sir Robert Taylor, aged forty-six years, who is impotent, but of very honest report, and hath nothing to live upon but his chauntry, an hundred and six shillings and four-pence per annum; and out of it he pays yearly for tenths to the king nine shillings and eight-pence. There *did belong* to this chauntry one chalice, parcel gilt, which was delivered to the jewel-house, and ornaments valued at twelve shillings and four-pence."

Of modern times there is nothing particular to notice respecting Clipsham, except that here is a neat and commodious mansion occupied by —— Snow, Esq.

ALSTOE HUNDRED,

to which we now approach, is the most extensive division of Rutland, being 27,091 acres. It contains the parishes of Ashwell, Burley, Cotsmore, Exton, Greatham, Market Overton, Pickworth, Stretton, Tigh, or Teigh, Thistleton, Wissendine, and Whitwell, and includes the whole northern part of the county bordering on Lincoln and Leicestershires, and uniting with every other hundred except Wrangdyke.

The fee of the whole hundred, as early as the reign of Edward I. was in possession of Edmund Earl of Cornwall, son of Richard, a younger son of King John, and elected king of the Romans, from whom it came afterwards to the crown. It is curious that this hundred has not a single market-town, although it appears that Market Overton was so formerly.

Entering the hundred from Oakham, the first place which presents

[illegible]

BURLEY HOUSE

sents itself to our notice, and which, indeed, is conspicuous from all parts of the county, is

BURLEY-ON-THE-HILL,

the magnificent seat of the Earl of Winchelsea, near to which is a very pleasant village of the same name, seated on a hill, which rises abruptly from the vale of Catmose, and commands a most extensive prospect. The village of *Burley* is but small, and contains a few very genteel mansions, and some neat cottages, which seem to owe their comfort and convenience to their vicinity to this noble mansion, which is the pride of this little county, and must be acknowledged to be amongst the finest seats in the kingdom.

The territorial property of this place in the Saxon times was in the hands of *Ulf*, who held it of the crown as seven carucates, by the name of "Burgelai;" but he seems to have lost it immediately after the Norman Conquest, as it was soon after in the possession of Gilbert de Gant, one of the Conqueror's greatest favourites. He granted it to one Goisfrid, who farmed it as two carucates of demesne with thirty Villeins; and there were also eighty *Bordarii*, who possessed four carucates and thirty acres of meadow land. It is evident that the present park, or part of it at least, was then in existence; for there is said to have been at that time a wood of one mile in length, and three furlongs in breadth. At the Norman Survey, the whole was estimated at five pounds, which was a rise of twenty-five per cent, on the value in the reign of Edward the Confessor: now if this rise was actually a real increase in value, it shews a rapid improvement in the kingdom in a space of less than half a century. There is a deficiency of historical evidence respecting Burley, from this period until the reign of Edward II. when we find it in the hands of Nicholas de Segrave; and it is a curious fact, that another considerable village, of which he was also lord, is now completely annihilated. This was called *Alesthorp*, and was of sufficient consequence to be valued in the Norman Survey at forty shillings

shillings, having eleven Villeins and four *Bordarii*, who occupied four carucates and sixteen acres of meadow, besides a wood of three furlongs by two.

In the reign of Edward III. Burley was held by Warrene de Insula, or De L'Isle, who soon after conveyed it to Anne, the lady of Sir Edward De Spenser, Knt. in whose heirs it remained until the reign of Richard II. at which period it is memorable as being the spot from whence Henry Spenser, then Bishop of Norwich, collected a few troops, in order to oppose the designs of the rioters under Jack Straw and Wat Tyler, many of whom were becoming very active in his diocese, led by one John Lyster of that city. This warlike bishop seems to have been the lord of the manor.

It is needless to pursue its descent through a long line of the families of Plessington, Franceis, Sapcote, Durant, Wake, and Brookesby; from which last three, then joint heirs, it was sold into the Harrington family in the reign of Elizabeth, with whom it remained till it was purchased of the heir-general by Sir George Villiers, the famous favourite of James I. who created him Duke of Buckingham.

Mr. Wright tells us that, after he had purchased it, he made it one of the finest seats in these parts of England; improving the house to that advantage, that it became a second Belvoir, and, in some respects, superior to that famous seat of the Earls of Rutland, being situate on a hill, with a princely park and woods adjoining, and overlooking the little, but rich vale of Catmose. Here it was, he adds, that the Duke entertained King James and all his court, in a manner worthy the gratitude of so beloved a favourite; nor was religion forgotten in the midst of this courtly jollity; for in the printed sermons of the famous Bishop Andrews, there are several which are said to have been preached before the king at Burley.

Ben Jonson also seems to have given some celebrity to this place; for here it was that his Masque of the "Gypsies," was first performed before his majesty, Prince Charles, and the court.

The

The performers were all of the nobility; and the learned monarch was so pleased with it, as to have it performed several times during the same progress, particularly at Belvoir, and at Windsor.

So strong was this place, both in its mode of building, and from its situation, that in the civil wars the Parliamentarian army, which was then most powerful here, placed a small garrison in it for the purpose of guarding their County Committee, and also of harassing the country; but, fearing an attack from the Royalist party, and feeling themselves too weak to occupy, with any chance of success, such an extensive line of defence, the garrison set fire to the house and furniture, and then left it. "Yet the stables," says Wright, "escaped the effect of their malice, which remain to this day, the noblest (or at least equal to any) building of this kind in England."

After the Restoration, this edifice lay in ruins for many years; for, though the last Duke of Buckingham lived for some time after that event, being much involved in debt, he was obliged to dispose of great part of his estates, when this was sold to Daniel Earl of Nottingham. This family (afterwards inheriting the older title of Winchelsea) have since that made it their principal residence, it being rebuilt in its present form by the first purchaser.

The *Finch* family seem to have had an hereditary eminence in the study and practice of the law, almost ever since the reign of James I. in whose time Sir Henry Finch was a learned serjeant at law, and was the author of "Nomotechnos," a valuable work, though perhaps partaking something of the quibbling spirit of that period.

Sir Heneage Finch was recorder of London in the reign of Charles I.

Sir John Finch was the Queen's attorney, and also speaker of the House of Commons; and it was he who was forcibly held in the chair, on his refusing to countenance their proceedings. He is said always to have abhorred Elliott's doctrine, "that men should not be questioned for offences in Parliament; as if that

reverend assembly were called for no other purpose, than that turbulent spirits might be at liberty to speak treason once every three years." When questioned respecting *Ship Money*, his answer was, "that if the whole were in danger, the whole ought to contribute." When he was urged to read the remonstrance in Parliament, he refused, on the plea, "that at any rate authority must be vindicated from contempt, since the life of government is reputation." *

After rebuilding the House, the Earl of Nottingham enclosed the Park with a stone wall of nearly six miles round. It now contains 1085 acres, and is covered with very large oaks, elms, and beech trees, of great value, and beautifully intermixed with all kinds of forest trees †. The lawns and open grounds are very extensive; and though its surface is flat, yet it possesses some very rich scenery, with a curious grotto, and other ornamental decorations.

The approach to the house leads through a thick shrubbery, so as that the whole north side bursts upon the spectator at once. This presents a centre of fine elevation, one hundred and ninety-six feet in length, with an extensive colonade on each side joining it to the offices. A long range of superb iron railing separates the court from the road, and the tourist enters between two handsome lodges, after which he has to traverse a walk of 270 yards, to the grand entrance, which is in the north façade. It is difficult to imagine any thing more superb than this grand coup d'œil with the mansion in front, the circular colonade supported by light airy pillars on the sides, and the offices on each wing, all built of a fine light grey stone, brought at an immense expense from the quarries at Ketton, and at Clipsham, and forming a court supposed to be the largest in the kingdom. Its style of architecture is of the Doric order, but not overloaded with ornaments. The east and west fronts are even plain, and are each ninety-six feet in extent; and the south front is a counter-part of the northern face. On the southern front is the superb terrace, 300 yards

* Lloyd's State Worthies. † Agricultural Survey.

300 yards in length, and 12 broad, from whence the view over the gardens, ornamented grounds, and adjacent country, is beautiful in the extreme.

This elegant mansion owes much of its modern splendour to the present Earl, for it had been in some parts almost in a state of dilapidation during his long minority; but it is now, throughout, in a complete repair, and preservation.

On entering the principal SALOON on the ground-floor, the visitor cannot fail being struck with the lightness and extreme simplicity, amounting almost to plainness, with which it is fitted up; yet it has an air of elegance, perfectly compatible with this impression. This apartment contains a very good full length portrait of the *present Earl*, in his Installation Robes as a Knight of the Garter, by Woodford; and here are some very elegant marble slabs, inlaid with lapis lazuli, Blue John or Derbyshire spar, &c.

The DRAWING ROOM is exquisitely furnished, and contains some good family pictures, and paintings of the Italian school. Amongst others are *Heneage Lord Finch*, and *Lady Essex Finch* his sister, as a boy and girl in 1695, *Prince of Wales*, and *Duke of York*, whilst boys, in the robes of the Garter, by Brompton; *Dying Virgin* surrounded by angels, by Carlo Dolci, the expression very fine; a *Dead Christ* recumbent in the sepulchre, and supported by angels, the anatomical keeping and mortal relaxation, still seemingly possessing a spirit of immortal renovation, are exquisitely preserved; this is by the same master; a *Magdalen;* a *Madona*, equal, if not perhaps superior, to any thing of the kind in the kingdom; the drapery is exquisite, and the *living relief of the thumb* would gratify any person of taste, even if there was not another picture in the mansion to repay the trouble of a journey. There are some other family portraits, but none deserving particular notice.

The BOOK ROOM is an airy cheerful apartment, and extremely interesting from the number of excellent family portraits, connected both with the public and domestic history of

past times. Here are *Heneage Finch, Earl of Nottingham*, and Lord Chancellor in 1680, in his Robes; *Lord Jefferies*, son of the Chancellor Jefferies; *Anne*, Countess of Winchelsea and Nottingham, in 1727; *Daniel, Earl of Winchelsea*, her husband, who built the house; *Charlotte, Duchess of Somerset*, their daughter; *Honourable William Finch*, husband of the venerable Lady Charlotte Finch, and father of the present Earl; *Lady Charlotte Finch*, daughter of the Earl of Pomfret, and Governess to the Princesses; *Sophia Lady Lempster; Present Earl* when young, as an Oxonian, in 1771; *Charlotte Herbert*, daughter of Lord Pembroke, wife of Lord Jefferies, and grandmother of Lady Charlotte Finch.

From this the visitor enters the SMALL DRESSING ROOM, which is rich in ornament, containing *John Carteret, Earl of Granville*, Lord President of the Council in 1744; a very curious antique portrait of a lady, on board; *Infant Christ* playing with flowers, an exquisite piece, in which the artist has contrived to mingle the majesty and benevolence of Divinity, with all the artless playfulness of the interesting child; *Sophia, Countess of Granville*, sister of Lady Charlotte Finch, &c. The visitor will also notice in this apartment a very ancient and highly curious cabinet of marble and spar, representing flowers, &c. in their natural colours.

The LITTLE BEDROOM is rather a neglected apartment, and one which the guide will pass, unless the visitor expresses a particular wish to see it. It will repay his trouble; for it contains two or three specimens highly deserving of notice. There is a curious portrait of *Frances, Duchess of Somerset*, in the seventeenth century; also an ancient picture, with a collar of S. S. which has every appearance of being an original of the famous *Chancellor Bacon*; but the most remarkable, and which would be highly disgusting and repulsive, were it not for the exquisite expression and execution, is a Bacchanalian piece, which has unfortunately suffered from the connoisseurship of the gentlemen of the shoulder-knot, to whose accommodation this apartment had been

been appropriated on crowded occasions. In this, Bacchus is represented riding on the boar at the head of a procession, followed by little drunken Cupids on the goat, some of them tumbling off; Bacchus is supported by inebriated satyrs, one of whom is so far gone as to spill his liquor; these are followed by Bacchantes, *one of* whom is naked, and beating a cymbal; in her, every disgusting idea connected with inebriety and indecency in the sex is combined, yet the skill of the artist is so exquisite, that it is impossible to examine the piece without admiration at the *truth* and *expression* of his talent; in short, it speaks more than it might well be supposed in the power of the pencil to perform, and we must add, that although this painting is not fit for exposure in a *Boudoir*, or drawing-room, yet such is its character, that it ought either to be *destroyed*, or *preserved with the strictest care!* The artist is unknown, but its style much resembles another, which hangs near it, of *Dutch Alchymists* by D. Ryckaert, in which the attitudes, expression, and employment, of the figures, joined to the elaborate minuteness of the accessories, and the exquisite finish of the whole, point it out as deserving a more conspicuous situation.

The tourist is now led through a WAITING ROOM, which contains two or three good *deceptive* pieces, with portraits of dogs, &c.

The ANTI-ROOM has two good fruit pieces of grapes, and melons, with a portrait of a lady in a Turkish dress, said to be by Rubens, and certainly not unworthy of his pencil; at any rate it deserves a better place.

The LONG LIBRARY is an ancient part of the old mansion, which was permitted to remain in the last re-edification. Its windows, at one end, open into the church yard; but as they seem to be always kept closed, much of the sombre effect is prevented. It certainly is an unpleasant circumstance in the situation of any house to be so near the abodes of departed mortality. The consciousness of this must always operate on the harmless conviviality of society; or if it fails in that effect, it

can only do so by destroying sensations that ought rather to be encouraged than repressed: and though it may be well that the silly fears of ghosts and hobgoblins is now daily losing ground, yet that partial good may be more than counterbalanced by the unfeeling habits acquired by the frequent paths through burying-grounds, and the consequent contemptuous treatment of the scattered relics of the dead, of those whose bosoms throbbed with virtuous sentiments, and whose heads possessed more knowledge and judgment than those of the unthinking wretches who spurn at and mutilate their remains!

This apartment, from its situation, seems totally deserted, yet it contains some things worthy of notice. At one end is a well executed architectural painting of a college in Italy, with a youth in the attitude of study: this is really a very fine piece, both for perspective and execution. Here are also some curious portraits of *Sir Thomas Baines; Lady Rich; Sir John Finch*, Solicitor General to Charles II.; *Heneage, Earl of Aylesford; Lord Chancellor Nottingham* in his robes; *Charles II.;* an old portrait of *Lord Chief Baron Bell*, well worth notice; a female suckling her child, emblematical of *Charity; William Viscount Hatton*, who was governor of Guernsey when Castle Cornet, then his residence, was blown up in 1672; at which time he escaped himself, almost miraculously, but lost his mother and his wife; a very curious large painting of an old man's head, in the act of reading; over the chimney-piece, *Lady Finch* in the Elizabethan costume; she was mother of the Chancellor, and daughter of Sir John Bell, the Lord Chief Baron; two Italian landscapes, with classical stories introduced, artist unknown, but both evidently from the same pencil, and possessing considerable merit; *Lord Herbert* of Cherbury, in a Spanish dress, and evidently an original.

The collection of books in this apartment, though old, is yet a very excellent one. In ancient works of Natural History, and of Anatomy, it is very rich; as well as in other departments of Politics and Literature.

The

The BILLIARD ROOM is fitted up in the usual style, and contains a good portrait of *Daniel, Earl of Nottingham*, the builder of the house; two portraits of *Thomas Wentworth, Marquis of Rockingham*, and his *Marchioness; Charles Seymour, Duke of Somerset; Charlotte* his daughter; *Honourable Edward Finch*, who was ambassador to the Russian Court, a good portrait.

The STAIRCASE is elegantly painted in fresco, by Landscroon, and leads to the PAINTED SALOON, by the same artist. This superb apartment is an exquisite specimen of architectural proportion, extending through the whole breadth of the mansion, and is in length sixty-six feet, in width thirty-six, and fifty-five in height. The very spirited fresco paintings, which adorn its walls, were executed by the admired artist in 1711, and represent in an easy, natural, manner, with every attention to historical truth both in figures and in costume, the Life, Triumphs, and Death, of Julius Cæsar.

The views from the windows of this saloon are very fine, and exhibit the gardens and grounds to great advantage.

From this we enter the STATE DRESSING ROOM, the first of a long range of apartments hung with some very handsome Dutch tapestry. It contains a portrait, sitting, of Charles II.; another of his brother *Henry, Duke of Gloucester*, who died during his unhappy father's life-time; he is in armour; and one of *James II.* whilst Duke of York.

The STATE BED ROOM has a good half length of *James I.* another, same size, of *Charles I.* and a good whole length of *William III.*

The DRESSING ROOM attached to this apartment, is ornamented with a good painting of *Queen Henrietta Maria; Mary Hyde*, first wife of James the Second; and *Catharine*, Queen of Charles the Second.

In two adjoining *Bed-rooms*, both furnished with very handsome tapestry, there are several curious antique paintings; one of a young lady, in 1610; three ancient pieces on board, female

male portraits; the *Earl and Countess of Thanet;* and their son *Thomas Tufton,* Earl of Thanet, who died at the age of 75, in 1619.

The whole of this most superb mansion is most elegantly furnished; the bedchambers are numerous; and even the apartments, designed for shew and state, are still not *too* magnificent to be comfortable.

The *Gardens* and *Grounds* are seen to great advantage from the south front, and eastern wing of the house; the west end is occupied by the church and its surrounding cemetery; and the views from the terrace, and of the house from different parts of the garden, are very striking. The gardens have enough of the ancient regularity of alleys, lawns, and parterres, to serve as a specimen of that style, and they have at the same time enough of the modern taste, to shew that art has been but the handmaid of nature.

But the most interesting prospect about the house is from the roof which looks down upon the grounds and park, as on a map; and from whence, indeed, the visitor may see the whole of this diminutive county.

The *Church* is a plain neat building, embosomed in trees; and the whole vicinity very appropriately joins its neatness with the magnificence of the lordly mansion.

Ashwell lies a short distance to the north-west of Burley on the Hill. It now contains only thirty-six houses, and 192 inhabitants; but was of sufficient consequence at the Norman Survey to be very particularly noticed. In the Saxon times it was called *Exwell;* and in Domesday-book it appears, that Earl Haroldus held here two carucates of land: but the arable land was six carucates; and there were two carucates held by one Gozelinus, on which only there were thirteen villeins, and three bordarii, or cottagers, all of whom had among them five carucates, and sixteen acres of meadow. At this time, too, its value was increased to six pounds from one hundred shillings, which it had been estimated at in the reign of the Confessor. From this period,

ried, until the reign of Edward II. we find no account of it; it was then the property of the family of Tuchet, and Sir John Tuchet, Knt. in the 33d year of Edward III. acknowledged himself to hold this manor from Edward the Black Prince, as part of the lands of Robert de Brus, attainted of high treason. It passed afterwards to Henry VIII. who granted it to Brian Palmer, who fixed his habitation in this place, which thence became the seat of his posterity for several generations. It has since passed through several hands.

During the Catholic times, the Hospital of Burton Lazars in Leicestershire held some lands here: but they were granted, at the Dissolution, to the Dudley family.

The church is ancient, and contains three very antique altar-monuments: one of them is of wood, and has a curious figure of a cross-legged knight, a crusader, in coat of mail. Another is of stone, to the memory of an ecclesiastic, who is represented in his sacerdotal robes. The third is in the chancel, and has the effigies chased on it, of John Vernam, and Rose, his wife, about 1479; their son, John, was prebendary of the cathedral churches of Salisbury and Hereford.

A brass plate in the church records a singular instance of honest industry, and of liberal charity, which must not pass unnoticed.

"Elizabeth Wilcox, born in this town, but living in Derbyshire, *in the condition of a servant*, did, in the year 1648, give and bequeath the rent of a tenement, situate in the parish of St. Peter at Derby, of the value of seven pounds per annum, to the poor for ever, viz. one moiety thereof to the poor of this town; the other to be equally divided between the poor of St. Peter's parish in Derby, and the poor of Elvaston, in that county, yearly."

It is only further necessary to notice a Mr. Thomas Mason, who was rector of this parish in the reign of Charles I. As a steady loyalist he became obnoxious to the Puritanic party; was several times imprisoned, plundered, and otherwise maltreated.

On two different occasions he was sent prisoner to Nottingham Castle, for reading the Common Prayer in private families; and became at length so much of the church militant, that he actually got the command of an independent company at Belvoir Castle; and once escorted his royal master from Newark to Banbury.

The country round WISSENDINE is very hilly, and finely diversified; and its ancient church is an interesting object in the landscape. This place existed in Saxon times, and the manor was then valued at eight pounds per annum; its original name being *Wichingedine*. Immediately after the Norman Conquest, it was held by Earl Waltheof; and at the time of the survey was the property of his widow, Judith, Countess of Huntingdon: being then estimated at thirteen pounds per annum, containing thirteen carucates, in which were twenty-seven villeins and six bordarii.

In the interval between that period and the reign of Edward II. it appears to have been divided in various hands; and was then the property of the families of Wake, Helewelle, Harrington, and Whittlebury. The greatest part of the manor, on the death of the last Lord Wake, went by his sister Margaret, to the Hollands, Earls of Kent; then by heiresses to Mortimer, Earl of March, to Charlton, Lord of Powis, and to Grey; and since that to the Sherards, Earls of Harborough, who had an ancient seat here.

The ancient church contains in the chancel an alabaster tomb for Bartholomew Villers, second son of William Villers of Brokesby, in Leicestershire, and Margaret, his wife; but even in the early part of the last century, this was so much defaced, that it was impossible to ascertain her family, though it is believed that she was a daughter of Thomas Holand, Earl of Kent.

We find it recorded of this church, that it is a vicarage valued in the king's books at only seven pounds and one shilling, which, even 150 years ago, was so small a sum for the support of a clergyman, that the benevolent Henry Forster, of Thistleton, in addition to his other charities in this county, gave and granted

ten pounds per annum, out of his estates in Swineshead and Buckminster, in Lincolnshire, for the perpetual augmentation of this living. It is also a curious fact, that in the reign of Edward I. the advowson of the church was in the monastery of Lindores in Scotland; for it appears that Sir John Swinbourne, Knt. and Friar John de Lindores, as procurators for that monastery, presented to the church; but, in the succeeding reign, it was alienated to the prior and convent of Sempringham in Lincolnshire.

TEIGH is a small village in this neighbourhood, pleasantly situated, and commanding a fine prospect over Leicestershire. It is described in Domesday-book as having been the property of Godwin before the Conquest, when it was considered as amounting to five carucates. At the Survey it appears, however, to have undergone, like most other manors, a change of masters, and was then in the hands of Robert Mallet, who held two carucates; there were also fifteen villeins who held four carucates; and a meadow of four furlongs in length, and as many in breadth, with a mill of two shillings value; the whole of which, according to the computation of that period, amounted to four pounds. The *Folvilles*, who were a very ancient family in this county, though now *scattered*, possessed this manor soon afterwards; and they must at that time have been of considerable consequence, for John de Folville, in the reign of Edward I. was knight of the shire in several Parliaments; and, in the 29th of that monarch's reign, had summons to attend the royal standard, with horse and arms, well fitted, at Berwick-upon-Tweed, on the nativity of St. John the Baptist, in the prosecution of the Scottish wars.

The family seems after this to have moved their residence; for in the early part of the reign of Edward III. the lord of this manor was designated as John Folville, of Ashby Folville in Leicestershire; and the manor seems then to have gone to a junior branch; for there is a grant in trust of his execution, to William Kaythorp, parson of Teigh church, of the manor and appurtenances then held in dower by Alice de Folville, widow of his

his father, Eustace. This trust, twenty-one years afterwards, was fulfilled by Keythorpe's conveyance of the manor to the second son, Sir Jeffrey Folville, Knt. and Isabel, his wife. This Jeffrey, on the death of his elder brother without issue, became heir to the family estates; but this manor appears to have been sold soon afterwards to the family of Helewell, whose heiress marrying an ancestor of the present Lord Harborough, the manor has passed into their possession.

The church is quite in the style of the rural Gothic, and contains nothing worthy particular notice; except a grave-stone in the centre of the chancel for an honest, loyal, Scotchman, James Adamson, who died here in 1661, after having been rector for thirty-one years, and having suffered much for his attachment to his king during the unhappy times of Charles.

MARKET OVERTON has afforded considerable grounds for conjecture and disputation to the antiquaries of this county. Grose observes, that the only Roman station in this county is said by some to have been here, and supposed to have been the Margidunum of Antoninus, particularly as many Roman coins have been dug up here; and in the Bibliotheca Topographica,* the same idea is started; but this seems to have been taken from Camden, and other writers; for he, in his first edition of his *Britannia*, asserts, that Market Overton is a corruption of Margidunum; or, at least, that "Overton" is an addition only of recent date in his time, from its situation on a hill, and thus being above, or *over*, the other villages in its vicinity. Mr. Wright, in contradiction to this, says, that here was formerly a market, and that the name is derived from that circumstance; but for this assertion there is no proof that can be adduced, except there having been a market here, appointed by a charter of Bartholomew Lord Badlesmere. Camden, indeed, seems to have changed his opinion, and actually, in a subsequent edition, stated, that Belvoir Castle was the true Margidunum; but in this he has again been contradicted: and several commentators have endeavoured to prove that his first position

* Vol. III. p. 485.

tion was correct, and that for several reasons. The first is, that many Roman coins, as already noticed, have been found here; and another which, however, must be considered as liable to controversy, on account of other stations not being correctly ascertained, is, that the Itinerary distances answer correctly; for from hence to *Ganaennæ*, or Brag Cisterton, is six miles; to *Verometum*, or Burgh-hall, is seven miles; to *Ad Pontem*, or Great Paunton, is seven miles also; the third, on which also great stress has been laid, is, that *Marga* is found here, from whence the name of *Margidunum* first took its rise; for *Marga*, (say the advocates of this theory,) was used to improve the ground; and limestone is used by us to improve the ground; and limestone is found at Market Overton; therefore *Marga* is limestone, and *Margidunum* is Market Overton.

But all this is denied by Horsley and others, who, although they confess that it was called *Market* Overton before the establishment of the market there, and of course could not possibly have derived its name *by anticipation*, yet assert, that the real Margidunum was at East Bridgeford in Nottinghamshire; whilst the distances can be of no avail, as the towns or stations above specified were actually in different situations.

It is unfortunate in this case, for the honour of its antiquity, that the different antiquaries who have entered the lists, have come cased up in the *mail* of prejudice; the latter particularly, who deny the origin of the name from the Roman appellation, are bound to support their opinion through thick and thin; for if Market Overton is really and truly the Margidunum of Antoninus, it would not only upset the handsome and well-twisted theories of Horsley, and others, but might also tend to settle with such accuracy, the different stations, that there would be no *field of conjecture* left, a thing which all zealous antiquarian controversialists must sincerely deplore; for if there is no doubt, there can be no discussion; and, without discussion, of what use are either ingenuity of conjecture, or the bold hardihood of assertion?

But

But to come down to a period of certainty, we know that in the Saxon times this manor was the property of Earl Waltheof; and that at the Norman Survey it was in the possession of his relict, the Countess Judith, niece of William the Conqueror. It contained in the whole twelve caracates; three of these were in the hands of the Countess; and there were nine Villeins and eight Bordarii, who had nine carucates and forty acres of meadow. Besides this, there was a wood of a mile in length, and half as much in breadth; and the whole was then valued at twenty pounds; though, in the reign of Edward the Confessor, it had been estimated only at twelve.

From this time we know nothing of the place until the ninth year of Edward II. 1315, when it was held by Bartholomew, Lord Badlesmere, who then obtained a charter for a weekly market at this place on Tuesday; and for two annual fairs, one on the eve, day, and morrow, of *John Port-Latin*; and the other on the eve, day, and morrow, of St. Luke the Evangelist, (6th of May, and 18th of October.

This baron seems to have been *in opposition*; and having been *outvoted in the field* at the battle of Boroughbridge, he was silenced, not by a pension or place, but by a stronger line of argument, being hanged at Canterbury, and quartered; but his son, Giles, was permitted in the ensuing reign to inherit his father's lands.

Giles, Lord Badlesmere, dying without issue, this manor was afterwards divided amongst his sisters and coheiresses, by whom it went to the Veres, Earls of Oxford, and to the Lord Tibetot: but the Earl of Oxford was the paramount lord; and he being attainted in the reign of Edward IV. this manor was given by that monarch to his brother, afterwards Richard III. On the accession of Henry VII. the estates were again restored to Aubrey de Vere, then Earl of Oxford.

It next passed, (though it is uncertain in what manner,) to Henry Courtenay, Marquis of Exeter, a great favourite of Henry VIII. who having unfortunately displeased his royal patron, by his

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MARKET OVERTON.
Rutlandshire

his opposition to the suppression of religious establishments, was accused of a correspondence with Cardinal Poole, which was considered as tantamount to high treason; and *accusation* in that reign being only another word for *conviction*, both he and his marchioness were sentenced to death. The whole of his estates thus merging to the crown, these lands have since become the property of various individuals. In its present state, the village is clean and comfortable; not very lively, owing to its distance from a post road; but being in the midst of a fertile country, it possesses an appearance of plenty and comfort. The church is a very neat Gothic edifice, and is kept in good repair, and in very excellent order, much to the credit of those who have the charge of it. There are several antique looking mansions in the village, which mark the manners of ancient times; and the scenery around it being well wooded, the ground considerably broken so as to appear picturesque, and the views pleasing and extensive, the tourist will not find half a day ill spent at, and in the vicinity of, Market Overton.

Barrow is a small hamlet which lies in a retired situation, a little to the west of the high road. It is not mentioned earlier than the year 1315, when it was called Berghdon, and was in the possession of the family of De Colville. Robert De Colville dying soon after without issue, it went by his sisters and coheiresses to Ralph Basset, and John de Gournou. From these it passed, through Wystan and Nicholas, to the Harrington family, who held it, in socage, of the manor of Bourne the property of the Earls of Exeter: and it has since passed through several hands.

Cotesmore, about one mile south from Barrow, is a small, and quite a rustic, village. In the Saxon times it appears to have been the property of *Goda*, being then valued at seven pounds, but was soon divided among the Norman chiefs. The Conqueror himself held three carucates here in demesne at the time of the Survey; and had also three socmen, with forty villeins, and six bordarii, occupying twenty carucates. It was then estimated in the whole at ten pounds; but there were, besides the twelve

twelve carucates, forty acres of meadow, and a wood one mile in length, and seven furlongs broad; also half a carucate held by one Goisfrid, who had eight villeins on his land.

The crown appears soon after to have given up the manor; for, in the reign of King John, Waleran, Earl of Warwick, was lord of it; and it went, through an heiress, to the Beauchamps, along with the title and other estates; and with them and their heirs it remained until the reign of Elizabeth, when John Durant had two parts of the manor by fealty, and the rent of one pair of gloves. The ancient mansion, if not built by the Durants, had at least been their residence for several generations, but the family is now completely extinct in the county; for from them it went to the Harringtons, being held by them of the manor of Preston, an honour belonging to the Earl of Exeter, to whom Lord Harrington owed fealty and a pair of gilt spurs, or sixpence in lieu, to be paid yearly at the feast of St. Michael. This manor underwent the fate of the rest of the Harrington estates; but though sold after the decease of the last lord, yet Anne, Lady Harrington, who was then governess to the Princess Elizabeth daughter of James I. purchased a rent charge out of it, of the annual value of 100l. to be laid out in charitable and other purposes. By her schedule, she appropriated to the poor of Exton the sum of twenty-five pounds; for the repair of the Kelway monuments in Exton church, two pounds; to the poor of Burley, ten pounds; of Oakham, thirty-two pounds; of Hambledon, ten pounds; of Cotesmore, sixteen pounds; and to those of Market Overton, five pounds per annum. These sums were ordered to be paid on the four usual quarter days, in the south porch of Oakham church, to a certain number of trustees, who, in ten days afterwards, were to pay the same to the ministers and overseers of each respective place.

In the partition and sale of the Harrington estates, this manor was purchased by Ambrose Crooke, Esq. whose heiress carried it to Sir Edward Heath, Knight of the Bath, in the reign of Charles I. Another heiress carried it to Sir Thomas Fanshawe, whose

whose heiress marrying into the Noel family, it has become part and parcel of their extensive property.

The old mansion-house has been for some years occupied by the Earl of Lonsdale as a hunting seat. It is repaired and modernized, and forms a very comfortable residence for that purpose, but otherwise has nothing deserving of notice.

Greatham lies about three miles to the eastward of Cotesmere. It is a small, and completely rusticated village, consisting only of a few cottages; but the church is an object of some curiosity, having a very handsome light Gothic tower and spire, forming a fine object in the surrounding landscape, though its body is more modern. No part of it seems to be older than the fifteenth century; and the general simplicity of its style cannot fail to attract the tourist's notice, particularly as its situation is so extremely rural and sequestered: in fact, a misanthrope might sit down in Greatham, and fancy himself to have bid the world "adieu!"

The ancient inhabitants of this simple spot seem to have affixed ideas of great sanctity to their church, if we are to judge from an inscription preserved in rather a grotesque style, and in *most capital* letters.

> "Avoid, profane man, come not here;
> None but the holy, pure, and clere:
> Or he that groweth to be so,
> Into this porch but further goe!"

In it is also a mural monument to Dame Margery Caryle, who died in 1632. She was relict of Sir Richard Caryle, of Harting, Knt. The yew-tree in the church-yard, which, as an agreeable tourist observed, was once extremely large, and extending its sable branches over the mouldering graves of departed generations, had long withstood the fury of the winter's blast, still remains a pleasing monument of antiquity; but seems, in some degree, shorn of its ancient honours.

Though now so inconsiderable, yet Greatham was a place of

 some

some consequence in Saxon times, being valued, in the reign of Edward the Confessor, at seven pounds, and consisting of eight carucates; it was then principally the property of *Goda*. But the Norman monarch seems to have taken a fancy to this place himself; for he held here, in demesne, two carucates, and had thirty-three villeins, together with four bordarii, who, altogether, occupied eight carucates, one mill, and seven acres of meadow. Its value must have improved after the Conquest; for in Domesday book it is stated to be worth ten pounds.

A few years afterwards it appears to have been granted by the crown to the Newburghs, then Earls of Warwick; for Roger, the second Earl, in the reign of Stephen, gave eleven shillings yearly rent out of his mill here, to the Knights Templars, together with four bovates or oxgangs. From this family it followed the other estates and title to the Beauchamps, until the forfeiture of Thomas Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, in the reign of Richard II. when that monarch granted it to Thomas Mowbray, Earl of Nottingham. It then went to the Nevilles, and from them returned to the crown; after which it was granted by Edward VI. to his sister, Elizabeth, afterwards queen, being then valued at only 26l. 11s. little more than double what it was rated at in Domesday book. But she did not hold it long, as it was soon after granted to Sir Thomas Cheyney, Knt. by knight's service, and alienated by him to Francis, Earl of Bedford, who again disposed of it to the Harringtons; from them by purchase to the Noels, who sold it to Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, and again sold by him to the ancestor of the present Earl of Winchelsea.

The rectory of this church belonged to the priory of the Holy Sepulchre at Warwick; and in the reign of Edward VI. was farmed at 4l. 6s. 8d. but afterwards passed along with the estates. The living of course is a vicarage, and that so very small, that a late Earl of Nottingham gave up great part of the tythes to the amount at that time of eight pounds per annum; and the benevolent Henry Foster, of Thistleton, gave up all his right to some tythes in the parish, amounting then to fifteen pounds.

pounds. This also is one of the parishes to which he bequeathed ten pounds per annum for the instruction of the poor children in reading the bible, and learning the catechism, &c. The number of children to be educated was formerly settled at twenty.

THISTLETON is a small village, on the very verge of the shire, and principally remarkable as having been the residence of Mr. Henry Foster, who died in 1702, by whose benevolence so many otherwise helpless children have received the rudiments of a decent education in different parishes of the county.

In the Saxon times it was the property of *Erich* and of *Siward*, being then two manors, and then valued at forty shillings; but at the Norman Survey, when it was called "Tisterton," it became principally the property of the Countess of Huntingdon, and of Alured de Lincoln, who had then three carucates, on which were nine villeins and two bordarii; the whole being valued at 100 shillings.

In the reign of Edward I. it was the estate of Sir Hugh de Bussey, Knt. who was one of those that received summons to attend with horse and arms at Berwick-upon-Tweed at the Scottish wars. With this family it remained* until the reign of Henry VIII. when Anne, the sole heiress, carried it to Sir Edmund Brudenell by purchase, whose family appears, about this period, to have made great purchases in the county, and to have been of considerable consequence long before their elevation to the peerage as Earls of Cardigan.

Here is a seat belonging to George Fludyer, Esq. plain, neat, and comfortable.

Near *Stocking* is a seat of Sir Gilbert Heathcote, but occupied by General Grosvenor; and on the high road side is the well-known "Ram Jam Inn," which has long been a house of call for the coaches on the great north road, though nothing better than a lone public house. On the same road, and all within the compass of a few miles, are two others, the *New Inn*, and the *Greatham Inn*, both used as posting and as baiting houses.

* Much may be found on this subject in the Harl. Coll. No. 1756.

STRETTON is a small but antique village, about a quarter of a mile from the north road, and not far from the Ram Jam Inn. It has the remains of an ancient manor-house, still inhabited, and a very curious old church. It is famous for an old proverb of "Stretton in the Street, where Shrews meet," as they do, says Grose, "in every other town and village in the kingdom; but," he adds, "from the manner it is here expressed, one might be led to suppose that the Shrews of England were a body corporate, and Stretton their common meeting-place." Whatever may have been the foundation for this piece of proverbial scandal, the editor of these sheets must confess that, as far as his observations went, there was no apparent reason for it when he was there; but this may *perhaps* be accounted for by the fact, that his visit being in a busy harvest time, all the fair inhabitants of this shrewish village were *in the fields*.

At the Norman Survey it was a hamlet of Market Overton, and belonged to Judith, Countess of Huntingdon, who, if all the stories told about her by antiquarian newsmongers be true, was perhaps the greatest shrew of the manor; as *Alured*, the Saxon, would no doubt have agreed to, after she had dispossessed him of one-fourth part of it which he held previous to the Conquest, and for some time afterwards. It afterwards came to the family of Segrave, and was held by them of the crown by the service of one clove gilliflower. An heiress carried it to the Bohuns; but, in the reign of Henry VI. it appears to have belonged to Humphrey Duke of Gloucester, with whom all shrews, both of this and other towns, ought to be sent to dine, whenever they interrupt the harmony of a domestic party.

To this good duke the people of Stretton were much indebted; for, at his earnest request, his royal brother granted that all the tenants of the manor, their heirs, and successors, should be for ever free, and exonerated from all tenths and quotas of tenths, either of goods or chattels, which might be granted in Parliament from the laity, and that they should be only taxed to the fifteenth, after the same manner as the boroughs and ancient villages

villages which were demesne of the crown. At the same time the men of Stretton were pardoned of all debts, actions, and demands, then due to the king; and it is not impossible that the good Humphrey intended this as a kind of set off for their sufferings under the before recited proverb.

The manor afterwards went to the Harringtons, and from them to the Noels, with whose heirs we believe it remains.

About two miles further to the southward is the *Five Mile Cross*, which is thought to have been in existence in the Roman times as a point of separation for their several roads which crossed here: for from hence a way branches out from the Ermine-street, (which runs close by the side of the present highway, crossing it in one or two places, owing to the undulating line of the latter,) that seems to have been of the kind called "viæ vicinales," and leads to the different stations of Margidunum, &c.* From this spot a road, winding round *Exton park paling*, leads to the village of EXTON, which is but little more than a small hamlet, having nothing to boast of but its church, and the once elegant antique, but now half burnt down, mansion of the late Earl of Gainsborough; both these, however, are still sufficiently curious to arrest the footsteps of the inquisitive traveller.

At the period of the Saxon Survey in the reign of Edward the Confessor, then called Exentune, it was valued at eight pounds; but, at the Norman Survey, it appears that it consisted of eleven carucates, two mills, a meadow six furlongs in length, and a wood of five furlongs square; on which were thirty-seven villeins; the whole valued at ten pounds, and the property of the Countess Judith. Her daughter and heiress, Maud, married David, the Scottish prince, afterwards king, and Earl of Huntingdon in right of his wife. From hence it passed by an heiress to the Bruces, afterwards on the Scottish throne; and the lands of that family in England being forfeited in the contests between the two kingdoms, this manor was granted to a person of the name of Green, from whom it went to Culpeper, and then to the Harringtons,

* Bib. Top. Britan. Vol. III. p. 485.

ringtons, who held it nearly six centuries; but having sold it to Sir Baptist Hicks, it became the seat of the Gainsborough family, and is now the property of their heir.

The village is embosomed in trees: and the *Church*, which is considered as the handsomest in the county, has a very fine effect at a distance, and even improves upon approach. The lower part of the tower is square, with turrets at the corners, ornamented with pinnacles, and of considerable height. An octagonal tower, embattled, rises from this, from whence springs a lofty, light, taper spire, lighted at intervals by open windows; and the whole chastely Gothic.

The interior is strictly Gothic, and kept extremely neat and clean. Its decorations, too, have been very judiciously preserved in the antique style; and all the spandrils of the arches are supports for the banners of the Harrington and Noel families, accompanied by their tabards, pennons, and helmets, altogether presenting rich ideas of Gothic times and manners. The regular disposal of these renders them a kind of armorial history of the two families; whilst the monumental ornaments, and the silent gloom around, carry back the imagination of the tourist to the distant and romantic ages of chivalry.

On entering the chancel, the first monument which strikes the eye of the stranger is one to the memory of *Sir James Harrington, Knt.* and his lady, Lucy. This is extremely curious, and bears a very curious epitaph, which may be seen at full in Wright's Rutland. The figures are represented kneeling at an altar, with two books, under arches forming an ornamented canopy, with many armorial bearings. This venerable couple lived together fifty years, and had eighteen children, many of whom they saw happily married and settled. He died in the eightieth year of his age, and she in her seventy-second year, and both in the same year, 1591. She was daughter of Sir William Sidney; and from their union are descended, or have been nearly allied to their descendants, eight dukes, three marquises, seventy earls nine counts, twenty-seven viscounts, thirty-six barons, amongst

which were sixteen Knights of the Garter, besides many others since that calculation was made! Their eldest son, John, was born at this place, and is described by Fuller, as a bountiful house-keeper, dividing his hospitality between Rutland, and Warwickshire where he had a fair habitation. He was one of the executors of the Lady Frances Sidney, and a grand benefactor to the college of her foundation at Cambridge. King James created him Baron of Exton, and his lady, a prudent woman, had the Princess Elizabeth committed to her government. When the Princess was married to Frederic, the Prince Palatine, this nobleman, accompanied by Henry Martin, LL. D. was sent over to the Palatinate, to see her highness settled at Heidelbergh, and to perform some legal formalities respecting her dowry and jointure. "This done, as if God had designed this for his last work) he sickened on the first day of his return, and died at Worms, in Germany, on St. Bartholomew's day, Anno Domini, 1613." *

On the opposite side of the chancel is a most exquisite specimen of monumental sculpture, by Nollekins. It is in white marble, and is to the memory of *Baptist, fourth Earl of Gainsborough*. The figure of Lady Gainsborough, which is extremely elegant, and as large as life, is represented pointing to three medallions of herself and two husbands, which are resting on a cornucopia, and supported by Cupids, with Hymen at one side weeping, and his torch extinguished. She died in 1771.

In the chancel there is also an ancient table monument of *Nicholas Vyse*, who, by his costume, seems to have been a bishop. In the centre of the church, there is an ancient stone despoiled of its brass, and an antique table monument for *John Harrington*, Esq. and *Alice* his wife; who died in the early part of the 16th century; it is of alabaster, and deserving of notice.

* Vide Fuller's Worthies. His son, the second lord, died without issue. A curious character may be seen of him in the second volume of Nugæ Antiquæ, p. 307. His mortifications of the flesh are curious; and to them it may perhaps be owing that the family is extinct.

To the left of this is a large altar-like-monument and tomb of *Robert Keylway*, Esq. a famous lawyer, and father of Anne Lady Harrington. It stands in the south aisle, and is extremely sumptuous according to the fashion of his time, he having died in 1580, at the age of eighty-four. He is represented lying on his back in his official gown. John Lord Harrington, who married his daughter, is kneeling beside him, and in armour. On the opposite side is his wife with a little girl behind her; and in the centre is a small altar-tomb, with a child on it, stretched out as if dead, between them. On the top are three *Children*, not *Cherubs*, for they have no wings; but the centre one blows a trumpet, and holds a palm branch, whilst one holds a spade, and the other has a torch extinguished, and rests his foot upon a scull.

In the north aisle is an elegant marble monument to the memory of *Baptist Noel, Viscount Campden*, who died at the age of seventy-one, in the year 1683. It is an exquisite specimen of the art by Grinlin Gibbons, who held the office of King's Carver, and in his day was considered inimitable. On it are statues of the Viscount and his lady; the whole is twenty-two feet high, and fourteen broad, and cost 1000l. at the expense of his third son John. Opposite to it, is a mural monument, to the memory of his fifth son James, who died at the age of eighteen, in 1681; his statue stands on a pedestal, and there are also two medallions of other sons who died young.

Near this is a handsome table monument in black and white marble of *Anne*, wife of Thomas Bruce, Lord Kinloss, daughter of Sir Robert Chichester, who died at the early age of twenty-two, in 1627. She was a relative of the Harrington family.

Near the west end, there has lately been erected a very handsome mural monument, to the memory of *Lieut. General Noel*, who died in 1766. This is by Nollekens, and represents a female figure, with the torch of Hymen extinguished, and leaning on and weeping over an urn, on which is a bust of the General. It is impossible by any words to give an adequate idea of this figure, whose

whose drapery is so disposed as to shew the whole of the human form, but with a chastenets of delicacy perfectly compatible with those ideas which ought to fill the breast in such a place; yet we cannot help saying, that if ever there can be a statue which may be animated by the Promethean spark, this must be it.

With respect to the Ecclesiastical History of the church, we have but little to add. In Catholic times, the rectory was the property of the monks of St. Andrew at Northampton, it having been given to them, and to God and the church, by the family of Bruce, together with the tythes of all the lands at Exton, and this grant further stated, that these gentry and their men, in the said town of Exton, should be free and quit of all suits at court, and other secular demands and exactions whatever.

In the *Taxatio Ecclesiastica* of Pope Nicholas the fourth, in 1291, whose *Holiness* could not permit our ancestors to enjoy their various blessings without having a share of them, the rectory was estimated at thirty pounds, and the vicarage at five pounds. Here also was a *Chauntry*, which seems to have been as valuable as the vicarage; as it is stated to have paid to William Lacock, the incumbent, a pension of five pounds *. It was afterwards purchased from King Henry VIII. by Sir James Harrington.

This is one of the parishes, which enjoy ten pounds per annum, for the education of their poor children, by the will of Henry Foster.

Exton Hall

is an antique edifice, in the style of the Elizabethan age, and may be said to stand in the village, on the verge of a very extensive Park. When visited by the Editor of these sheets, it was all in confusion, and in a state of repair, after the effects of a most destructive fire, which took place on the 24th of May, 1810, and which has totally ruined one half of the south-east wing.

In

* Willis's Mitred Abbeys.

In the few apartments which could be visited, there was still enough to shew, that the mansion, when complete, must have been a very interesting specimen of ancient manners; and though the very elegant and extensive collection of paintings were in great disorder, yet even among the few that could be seen, were some highly deserving of notice. Of these, in the suite of apartments below stairs, were a very fine piece of game; Jephtha's Vow, in Chiaro Scuro; a fine head by Rembrant; two landscapes, with temples, &c. by Claude Lorraine; a fruit piece; a fish piece; both well done; some sea pieces; a very fine landscape, with figures in Spanish costume; two capital ones by Teniers, one of them a Dutch woman dancing, and highly characteristic; a fine painting by Pocock, of an Indiaman in a heavy gale; two Italian landcapes; the Virgin and Child, with the Adoration of John; wildboar and dogs, by Schneiders; a Magdalen, &c.

The *Staircase* contains many ancient family portraits; and in the *Gallery*, or *Armoury Room*, are a great number, many of them saved from the conflagration, amongst which we particularly noticed several fine ones of an Earl of Northampton, Lord and Lady Gainsborough, Lord Moira, and Mrs. Siddons.

The *Dining Room*, a low and gloomy, yet agreeable, apartment, has some good family portraits, and some capital specimens by Jordaens, with some antique paintings in the costume of Elizabeth's time, and a most exquisite Italian landscape.

The gardens have long been famous, but they are quite in the old style; and the Park and other grounds are very extensive; the deer-park alone containing 1510 acres. Here is some very fine planting, consisting of the finest timber-trees, particularly large oaks, ash, elm, and beech. Some pieces of water, in the park, with a cascade, &c. have still a good effect, though possessing much of the antiquated style of gardening.

WHITWELL is a small, but ancient village, between Oakham and Empingham. Its small and very antique church stands on a knoll close by the road-side, embosomed in trees, and presenting

senting a very rustic appearance. It has no spire, but a small turret holds two bells. Near it is a seat of Samuel Barker, Esq.

This place, though so very trifling at the present day, has long been of some consequence in the county; and in the Saxon times was the property of *Besy*, and then called "Witewelle." We have no account of its value at that period; but at the Norman Survey it was estimated at forty shillings, containing in the whole three carucates, one of which was held by *Herbertus* in farm, from the Countess of Huntingdon, whilst six villeins and two bordarii occupied the remainder. Even at that period it had a church, and a priest attached to it; and there were further twenty acres of meadow, a mill of the value of twelvepence, and a pasture wood of six furlongs in length, but only thirteen perches in breadth.

When William the Conqueror deprived his niece of her possessions, on her refusing to marry according to his desire, she being then a widow, he divided this, along with her other estates, amongst her three daughters; but it seems soon after, to have fallen to the church, for in the reign of Edward II. the Prior of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem was Lord of the Manor, and it remained with that order until their suppression by Henry VIII. when it was granted to the Harrington family, from whom it was sold to Sir Baptist Hicks, Knt. and went by his heiress to the Noels.

The family of *Flore*, or *Flower*, already mentioned under the head of Oakham, had an ancient residence in this town, which seems to have been their original seat. They were formerly of great eminence in the county, and represented it often in Parliament, even as far back as the reign of Richard II.

Here also appears to have been born *Richard Wightwell*, who was a priest, and one of the Canons of Lincoln Cathedral. As a mark of affection to his native town, he established a *Chauntry*, the Survey of which, in the reign of Edward VI. throws some light on the manners of those times. It states, that "this Chauntry was founded for the maintenance of one priest to sing there

for

for ever; and that it hath belonging to it of lands and tenements, lying in divers places in the counties of Rutland and Lincoln, to the yearly value of 107 shillings, and one penny, of which there is in rent absolute three shillings and fourpence; so that there remaineth to the Chauntry Priest, clear 100 shillings and ninepence, and of which he payeth tenths to the king 9s. 11d. yearly. He is named Sir Robert Suckling, aged forty-six years, of honest conversation, and hath always heretofore been exercised in the education of youth in learning, but is unable to serve a cure, because he is purblind. At the suppression in the second year of King Edward VI. there was found in it, and belonging to it, one chalice weighing twenty ounces of silver, which was delivered into the jewel house, and the ornaments, goods, and chattels, were valued at 13s. 11d."

We now proceed from Whitwell to

EAST HUNDRED,

which has been estimated at 18,169 acres; having 545 inhabited, and 13 uninhabited houses, and a population of 574 families, containing 1443 males, and 1462 females, being in all 2905, of whom 1067 were employed in agriculture, and 216 in trade and handicraft.

Its relative situation with respect to the rest of the county has given rise to its name, and it is bounded on the north, east, and south-east, by Lincoln and Northamptonshires; to the south by Wrangdyke Hundred, and on the west by Alstoe and Martinsley.

All the towns which are noticed, as belonging to this district, in the Norman Survey, are placed under the head of Northamptonshire, with the exception of Pickworth, which is then stated to be in Lincolnshire. The fee of the hundred, in the reign of Edward I. was in Edward, Earl of Cornwall, but, since that, in the Crown. The hundred is now under the care of two chief constables, who are appointed by the magistrates of the county. It was formerly

formerly divided into two parts, one of which was called the Hundred of Little Casterton; but Mr. Blore, in his recent Survey, says that no courts have been held there of late years.

It contains the parishes of *Bridge Casterton, Empingham, Essendine, Ketton, Little Casterton, Ryall, Tickencote,* and *Tinwell.*

EMPINGHAM is the first place we come to after leaving Whitwell, and lies on the south-west corner of the hundred. It is an inclosed parish, the divisions being good quick-thorn hedges, with oaks and ashes in the rows, about six trees to an acre, and Mr. Parkinson, in his Survey, observes, that there are sixty acres planted with young forest trees.

It has been an ancient town, though now little more than a village, and is said by tradition to have contained seven parishes. Its situation on the southern face of a hill, just above the river Guash, is extremely pleasant, and the neatness, comfort, and cleanliness, of its farm-houses, cottages, and streets, are well deserving of praise.

Nothing is known of its state in the Saxon times; but at the Norman Survey, it was estimated at eight *Hides* of land in the manor, independent of the town. Gilbert de Gand at that time held three hides in demesne; the arable land amounted to eight carucates, and there were four in demesne, with eight servants and twenty-five villeins, who had four carucates. There were also five mills rented at forty-two shillings and eightpence, and ten acres of meadow, together with a wood, a furlong in length, all which was valued at ten pounds.

In the town, Gilbert held seven hides and a half, and one bovate of the King's Soke in Rutland; the arable land amounted to fifteen carucates, which were occupied by fifteen socmen, and fifty-one villeins; there were also five mills at a rent of twenty-four shillings, ten acres of meadow, and ten acres of wood, all valued at eight pounds. Besides these, it appears that *Salfredus* held of William Peverel, in Empingham, two hides and a half; the arable land of which was four carucates, and one in demesne,

mesne, with one servant, eight villeins, and eight bordarii, who had one carucate, and a mill and a half, of the rent of twelve shillings, with four acres of meadow, and six acres of wood, all of the value of twenty shillings.

It is evident from this, that the tradition of the town having once been much larger, is founded on fact, though by no means on such an extensive scale as has been asserted.

Soon after this Survey, the family of *Normanville* became Lords of the town, and was of great repute as a military family. The last Lord of that name died in the reign of Henry III. He was Sir Thomas de Normanville, and left an only daughter, and heiress, Margaret, who married Edmund de Passely, during whose possession a grant was made by Edward I. for a market weekly on Thursday, and an annual fair on the eve, day, and morrow, of St. Botolph; but these have long been in disuse. On the death of Papeley, Margaret remarried with William de Basinges, from whom the manor afterwards came to the family of Mackworth, and has since passed through various hands.

Whilst this manor was in the hands of the Normanvilles, its history affords a curious proof of the assumed power of the priesthood in opposition to the civil power, in a grant of a chapel to Sir Thomas, at his mansion here.

This grant states it to be only for the use of Sir Thomas, his heirs, their wives, and their own family, without the ringing of a bell, and with power only to bless bread and water.

The chaplain was to make oath to deliver over to the incumbent of the parish all oblations, and whatever should come to his hands, within three days after receiving them. He was also sworn not to administer the sacrament to any, unless they were at the point of death.

It was also stipulated that the said knight and his family should be bound to resort to the Mother Church on the principal feasts.

These, and other injunctions, the said knight and his heirs and successors were to be sworn to be bound to for themselves and their wives.

[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]OR, LENOX
[illegible]

EMPINGHAM.

wives, "renouncing all royal prohibitions and privileges to the contrary, and promising that they and their families shall submit themselves to the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Lincoln."

Empingham church is a Prebend of Lincoln Cathedral, and is dedicated to St. Peter. It is extremely ancient, but in excellent repair and condition, and consists of a nave, two aisles, and two transepts. The tower is elegantly Gothic, and the west entrance consists of two Gothic arches, one surmounting the other, in a manner extremely curious, and ornamented with very rich mouldings. The body is Gothic, both inside and out; but there are some Saxon arches in the interior. The nave is separated from the side aisles by two rows of pillars, both supported by short round columns; the arches on the south side are Saxon, on the north, Gothic. Most of the windows are of the elegant Anglo-Norman lancet shape; they are rich in tracery, and there is still some armorial glass.

At a spot in this parish, marked in the maps as the ruins of St. Botolph's, called "St. Botley's," by the villagers, the chapel of the Normanville family is supposed to have stood. This was the site on which the fair was held.

Tradition says the town once extended so far, and also towards the banks of the Guash. In the former direction nothing remains, even of the ruins, to direct the eye of the antiquary, as the very foundations are obliterated; but coffins have been dug up, and various other remains have been discovered, which seem to point out its ancient respectability. Towards the Guash there are still existing many remains of Earthen Mounds, the marks of former establishments; most likely of the *Mills*, which at the Norman Survey appear to have been so numerous.

The *Poor* of this parish are chiefly farmed in a "House of Protection," as it is called, built on an extensive plan, by Sir Gilbert Heathcote, Bart. the present Lord of the Manor, in 1793, and furnished by the parishioners. On the entrance of each pauper into the house, they are supplied by the parish with two suits of clothes, and changes of linen; they are well fed; the sickly and infirm

infirm are not required to work; but the healthy are made to exert themselves.

This is one of the parishes which derive benefits from the bequest of Mr. Henry Foster, for the education of the poor children.

When Sir F. M. Eden wrote on the Poor, there was here one *Friendly Society*, consisting of 90 members, established in 1791, with its rules confirmed at the Quarter Sessions.

Sir Frederic observes, that the great benefits which then resulted from it, both to the morals, and comfort of its members, afforded the clearest conviction of its utility. The first article is, "that every person hereafter to be admitted into the Society shall declare that he will pay allegiance to the king, and duty to the laws of his country."

Near this is a seat of Thomas Forsyth, Esq.

HORNE, at the Norman Survey, was partly the property of the Bishop of Durham, and partly of the Countess Judith. The former had four carucates of arable, and one in demesne, to which belonged one socman, a priest, twelve villeins, seven bordarii, and one servant, who, amongst them, had four carucates He had also three mills of twenty shillings, and a wood of nearly two furlongs in length; all valued at four pounds. The Countess seems to have granted her part to *Grimbaldus*, who held here two carucates of arable, and one in demesne, with two servants, nine villeins, and four bordarii, who had among them two carucates; there was also a mill of four shillings; and the whole valued at thirty shillings, which appears to have been an increase of one half upon its value in Saxon times. Like most of the other manors in its vicinity, it has passed through the Harringtons to the Noels: but is now almost depopulated. Mr. Blore supposes it to have received its name from its situation in an angle or corner, formed by the intersection, or more probably the *diverging*, of two ancient roads; one of these being the direct line from London to York, the other from Essex to Cumberland, the point of intersection being where Horn Lane turnpike now stands.

Of the church, not a single fragment remains. Its site is now

within the limits of Exton Park, and each new Rector receives his induction, under an aged thorn tree which stands on, or near, it.

Stukeley says that Hornfield and Hardwick were demolished by the rebels in Henry the Seventh's time; but the fact is, that their destruction was of an earlier date, and during the temporary restoration of Henry VI. when, on the 12th of March 1470, a battle was fought here between Edward IV. and the Lancastrian partizans under Sir Robert Welles and Sir Thomas Lennde. Its exact scene of action was five miles from Stamford, near the York Road, at a place still called "Bloody Oaks," and the battle has been called "Loosecoat battle," both in tradition, and in history, from a story of the runaways having pulled off their upper garments in their flight. It has been said to have taken place between Casterton and Stamford; but the Lancastrian chiefs having been taken prisoners, and attainted two years afterwards, the records of their attainder expressly state the battle to have been fought in "Hornfield, in Empingham."

Tickencote, derived from Ticen, "Goats" and Cote, "a habitation," is a small village, or rather a pretty hamlet, about half a mile to the west of the great north road. At the Norman Survey it was the property of the Countess Judith, and then valued at fifty shillings. In the reign of Edward II. it was the property of *Britius Daneys;* but came about the time of Henry VIII. to *Chatepynet*, and soon after to *Wingfield*, a junior branch of that ancient family, so long seated at Upton in Northamptonshire; and it has ever since been their residence.

The church, dedicated to St. Peter, is supposed to be of very great antiquity, (lately re-edified,) and has engaged the attention of all our antiquaries. That it was of *Saxon* architecture is proved by those curious remains which are still preserved; but that it is also of *Saxon date* previous to the Norman Conquest, is asserted by *Staveley*, who observes, that the Saxons generally made their churches with descents to them, but the Normans with ascents; and *Harrod* adds, that this of Tickencote, from this and

 many

many other marks, seems extremely old, and is noted for its singular arches in the north wall, and for a large room with stone stairs and floor over the chancel, which was perhaps for some religious person to dwell in.

Dr. Stukeley *, in a paper read in 1755, thinks Tickencote not so old as Southwell in Nottinghamshire, which was built in 630; but Mr. King says, "and indeed the style of architecture corresponds well with that of the age of the Archbishops Theodore and Honorius †."

Stukeley also thinks the ancient church to have been the oratory of the Saxon Prince, *Peada*, the founder of Peterborough Abbey; but as this church is not mentioned in Domesday-book, Mr. Blore supposes it not older than the time of Robert Grimbald, who was founder of the Abbey of Osulveston *after* the Conquest.

Being in a state of dilapidation and decay, it was rebuilt in 1792, by *Eliza Wingfield*, who took care that the chancel should be preserved as much as possible, and that what was supplied should be copied from the old materials. Part of the old nave was Gothic; but the old Saxon arch which separated the church and chancel, and also the roofed ornaments of the chancel, are still entire.

With respect to this imitative re-edification, Mr. Blore observes, that in the rebuilding the West End, the architect seems to have intended an imitation of the Norman style; and if he has not been successful, he has the consolation to have many brethren of his profession, who have failed in their endeavours to revive the architectural taste of our ancestors; and though perhaps every thing has not been done in the rebuilding of this church, which an enthusiastic admirer of antiquities might wish for, yet the memory of a lady who preserved, at a very great expense, the valuable specimens which still remain here, of the indisputable

* Archæologia, Vol. I. p. 43.
† King's Muniments, Vol. IV. p. 97.

table labours of a remote age, deserves to be gratefully remembered.

The best architectural delineation we have seen of this modern antique is in the "Pursuits of Architectural Innovation," * which describes the edifice as containing two distinct parts, a *body*, and a *chancel*. The latter Saxon; the former of the *Tudor* style, of common simple work, and *added*, it is thought, to give room. The chancel is nearly a square, thirty-six feet by thirty. The western part is entirely made out by the entrance, which is enriched to an excess, and on each side are five columns, with highly enriched capitals. The arch partakes of an oval shape †; its architecture, which extends beyond the spread of the columns, is struck into seven parts; first, mouldings; second, oxes sculls; third, flowers and frets united; fourth, a curious and extraordinary collection of masques, ornaments, costume heads, grotesque figures, &c.; fifth, diagonals; sixth, other diagonal forms; and seventh, plain squares and indents. The east side of the arch also is grand and rich, with five ranges of ornament, recesses with columns, &c. It is added, "though much of the work has been havocked, yet still the greater part of the intention has been left, and fully sufficient to enable a religious restoration, allowing for a moment there was a necessity for such a job."

To this we may add, that the crypt roof and pillars in the chancel are extremely simple, when contrasted with the rich zigzag mouldings and dentils of the arch, and with the ornaments on the east end.

In the chancel is a semicircular arch, in which lies a mutilated wooden figure of a knight in armour, laying on his back, and in the attitude of prayer; and near it is the grave and humble tomb-stone of the modern foundress.

Both the interior and exterior are as complete representations

 of

* Gent. Mag Vol. LXXVI. p. 34.

† This arch is represented in the Anglo-Norman Antiquities of Dr. Ducarel, Pl. 13, p. 101, also by Stukeley in the Itinerary, II. p. 62, and in Carter's Ancient Architecture.

of the ancient building as could be executed, and so much of the ancient work remains in the outer walls, that the mind is gratified almost as much on its examination as if it was completely original; an effect which will increase as the stone acquires the venerable hue of antiquity. Over the entrance on the south side, is the following inscription:

"ELIZA WINGFIELD,
with that true sense of Religion and
Reverence for her Maker, which ever
distinguished her life, rebuilt this Church
in the Year 1792.
She died July 14, 1794, aged years
and her remains are here deposited."

The *hiatus* between *aged* and *years* remains to be filled up, but on her tomb-stone in the chancel, this pious lady is said to have been eighty-seven.

There is also a curious square font, adorned with interlaced arches, on a plain square base; and it may be necessary to add, that the lofty arch of the chancel is rather misnamed by those who call it "oval," being in fact a complete *Horse Shoe*, and therefore a more curious specimen of ancient architectural skill.

Near to the church is the ancient seat of the *Wingfield* family, which has been considerably modernized, but is still a venerable looking mansion, seated on a handsome lawn, in the midst of a small park; forming altogether a respectable and comfortable residence, and being seen to great advantage from the north road, which runs in its front.

Ingthorpe, in this neighbourhood, is merely mentioned from its having formerly been of more consequence than at present; for Stukeley says "there was a pretty church, and an ancient one at Ingthorpe, now turned into a dwelling-house." It is now a hamlet to Tinwell.

Pickworth, which is to the north east of Tickencote, on the borders of the county, is said by *Wright* to have formerly been a town

town and parish, of which nothing remained in his time but a steeple, known by the name of "Mockbeggar." Finding no mention of it in Domesday-book, he conjectures it to have probably been a member of some other neighbouring town; but that it must soon after have been a place of some consequence, is evident from a fact which we have ascertained by an examination of the "Inquisitio Nonarum," in the reign of Edward III. where it appears that it had taxable merchants at a time when there was not one in Oakham.

"Item dicunt qd sunt m'catores in eadem villa qui taxantur ad quinti decim xijs. x. d."

Mr. Blore considers the name as being derived from "Peak," high country, and "Weorth," a mansion, and he observes that the site of the ancient mansion (for he does not seem to consider it as ever having been a place of consequence as a town) may be traced near the centre of the parish, eastward of the church, in two fields, one called the foundations, the other the back closes. He may certainly be correct in stating this to have been the site of the manor-house, but from the extent of the remains, we are inclined to believe, that part of the ancient town may have extended also thus far.

Mr. B. adds, that this steeple of the church was only remaining in Wright's time, and that most likely the place was ruined by the contests previous to the battle of Hornfield. In this he is certainly more correct than Stukeley, who errs in the chronology, and says that Pickworth church was burnt down, "together with the then populous town," by the rebels, in the time of Henry VII. but he has omitted what Stukeley was certainly very correct in, speaking from his own knowledge, when he adds, that "Pickworth steeple, a very fine steeple, and seen all round the country, was taken down about A. D. 1728, to build a sorry bridge at Wakerley. I saw the lower part of the steeple anno 1731, when it was pulled down to build a bridge by Casterton."

We mention not this, in contradiction of, but in addition to, the very elaborate account of this parish in the first published part of

Mr. Blore's work, which, if completed in the same style it has been commenced in, will be one of the most copious, and we believe *correct*, County Histories now extant, and will form a valuable body of reference for family genealogy throughout the surrounding counties.

It is impossible to traverse this desolated spot, once the happy abode of domestic comfort, conviviality, and industry, without heaving a sigh of remembrance whilst contemplating the single pointed arch, with its capitals of beautifully decorated foliage, which is all that remains of the venerable edifice, some of whose painted glass, as has already been noticed, has been saved from destruction by removal to Clipsham church, whilst the tombs of those whose armorial bearings are there represented are mouldered into dust, like the bodies they covered, or sacrilegiously converted to the lowest uses.

In the reign of Edward I. *Roger de Geneye* appears to have been Lord of this manor, as he was summoned to attend that monarch with horse and arms, in the Scottish wars. In the reign of Henry VI. Sir John Geney ordered the manor to be sold after his death, when it was purchased by Sir Henry Ingloee, Knt. for a thousand marks of silver; but in the reign of Henry VIII. it was held by Sir John Hussey, on whose attainder, on account of the commotions in Lincolnshire, it was granted to the family of Goodrick, from them to the Harringtons, &c.

Essenden, anciently *Ezenden*, is supposed by Mr. Blore to have taken its name from a corruption of *Eastern Dun*, or hill, from its situation on a hill on the eastern border of the county.

Here was formerly a castle, but nothing remains of it except the moat, which is filled by a small rivulet, and encompasses a square area, containing rather more than an acre. Though not a stone of the castle itself can be found, yet it is generally supposed that the *Church* was formerly its chapel, and that the southern entrance is actually part of what existed before the Conquest. This opinion is founded on its being within the limits of the ancient moat, and being altogether extremely antique, whilst the south

south door is evidently the oldest specimen of architecture in the county; perhaps, from its rudeness of ornament, older than any part now remaining of Tickencote.

It is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and in its present state is about sixty-nine feet long, including the nave and chancel; but very little of it is of such high antiquity as the entrance already mentioned, which is surmounted with a very fine semicircular arch with zigzag mouldings and other ornaments. In the centre of this are three half length figures; that in the centre is Christ with his left hand resting on a book, and his right hand as if in the act of benediction, with the letters I.H.S, on one side; and the other figures, two angels with hands clasped, as if in supplication. On the right side of the door-way are two figures, which resemble monkeys clambering up a tree, and the pillars are curiously ornamented in spiral lines, which have a degree of freedom and ease, that do honour to the architect, or sculptor. That the body of the church is comparatively of recent date, is evident from the pointed arch which separates the nave from the chancel, and from a lancet window in the west end of the edifice; but still the whole is a venerable specimen of antiquity, both in its parts, and in its tout ensemble. An accurate delineation may be seen in Carter's *Ancient Specimens.*

If it be correct that the Saxon style of architecture was preserved in Ecclesiastical Edifices until the reign of Stephen, and that the Gothic commenced immediately after, we may then easily ascertain the date of the principal part of the building, for the pointed arch of the chancel is ornamented with the zigzag mouldings of the former style, and other evident antique marks as being of that age when the one was introduced, and the other not yet become obsolete. At the Norman Survey, this place was in the hands of the church, for Walter is there said to have held of the Bishop of Lincoln one hide of land. It is also stated, that "Bardi tenuit cum Saca et Soca," who may have been a descendant of the ancient Saxon barons, one of whom, in the year 1016, is said to have taken the command of the men

of Stamford, and to have given battle to the Danes, who had then invaded this part of England. Ingulphus, who records the fact, says that the Danes, though they got the day, were indebted for it to the impetuosity of the English, who were induced to follow them in disorder, on their making a feint of running away; but other historians assert, that the Danes were actually beaten back for a time. After the Conquest it must have been given to Gilbert de Gant; for in the reign of Henry II. it appears that his daughter and coheir Rohesia carried it to William de Bussew, whom she married. On the death of this Bussew, an inquisition took place of all his goods and chattels, amongst which his widow Rohesia seems not to have been the least valuable article; and, no doubt, was considered as an object of some consequence, she being, according to the custom of those times, within the gift of the Crown; for although she was sixty years of age, her land in *Issenden* was of the value of ten pounds; her stock was three ploughs, and three hundred sheep; and the receipts from her courts and woods, amounting also to a considerable sum; but she unfortunately had two daughters for her heiresses; one the wife of Hugh de Wac, the other married to John de Buisly. Like the other pious dames of her time, she was very devout, if generosity to idle monks can be considered as consistent with piety, for she gave to a party of those reverend gentlemen of the order of St. Andrew at Northampton eighteen acres of her demesne in this manor, with all the tythes of the town, &c. These lands were afterwards carried by heiresses to Buisly, Vipont, Clifford, Leibourn, and Cromwell, then to Spenser and Beauchamp, and to Neville, Earl of Warwick, after whose death they came to the Crown, and in Henry the Seventh's reign being restored to the Countess of Warwick, she settled them on Henry VIII. who sold them to *Cecil*, ancestor of the present Exeter family, and of the Marquis of Salisbury, the latter of whom is Lord of the manor, and Baron Cecil of Essenden.

Ryall is two miles from Essenden, to the south-west, where, as Camden says, "when our forefathers were so bewildered by superstition

superstition as almost to lose the true God in the crowd of deities, *Tibba*, a saint of inferior order, was worshipped as another Diana, by Fowlers, as patroness of hawking."

The first account we have of this place is from Ingulphus, abbot of Crowland, cotemporary with the Norman Conquest, and he asserts, that in the bloody battle fought with the Danes in 870, the stout knight, Harding of Ryhall, was one of the commanders of the Stamford men.

After this it was the property of Syward, Earl of Northumberland; and here was the residence of his son, Waltheof, also Earl, who married Judith, niece of the Norman Conqueror, and became Earl of Huntingdon. It afterwards passed through the Crown to Spenser, the favourite of Edward II. (and was valued in 1291 by order of Pope Nicholas,)* having before that been the property of the Earls of Boulogne in France.† After his attainder, it passed to Edmund, Earl of Kent; then by an heiress, Joan, to the Holands, Earls of Kent also; but is now in the Exeter family.

This place has been stated by some writers to have been the scene of action of "Loosecoat fight;" and Mr. Harrod quoting from them, asserts, that in the year 1462, Edward IV. came to Stamford from Fotheringhay Castle, Sir Robert Welles, Dimock, and De la Bar, having raised an army against him; that Edward dined at Stamford; and that a considerable body of horse and foot were added by the townsmen, when battle was joined with the enemy between Ryall and Tinwell, who were routed, their commanders taken, and immediately afterwards beheaded under the royal standard. It is evident, however, that this took place near Horn, (though not a long way from the spot here mentioned,) from the words of the attainder already quoted.

With respect to the female Saint already mentioned, "certain it is" says Mr. Wright, "that *St. Tibba* was a Virgin Anchoresse

* Taxatio Ecclesiastica. Eccles. Ryall, 36l. 13s. 4d. Vicaria, 8l.

† Testa de Nevil, p. 39, says, "Hugh Dispensator tenet Ryhall qui fuit Comitis *Colonie*" (*Bolonie*), &c.

resse at Godmanchester, a kinswoman of *Peada*, king of Mercia, and lived in or about the year of Christ 696; of so great reputation for piety, that our historical poet, Michael Drayton, enumerating all the holy women amongst our ancestors, the English Saxons, write thus:

> " ——— and to thee, St. Tibba, let us praise
> In solitude to Christ, that past her whole delight
> In Godmanchester made a constant anchorite;
> Amongst which of that house, for Saints that reckon'd be,
> Yet never any one more grac'd the same than she."

" But how this character agrees with a second Diana, or how St. Tibba came from Godmanchester to Rutland to be worshipped, I know not."

This difficulty, upon Mr. Wright's mind, is however accounted for in Lambarde's Dictionary of England; for he says, that Ælfsic, Abbot of Peterborough, " took up the bones of one Tibba, that was buried at Ryhall, and offered them for a great present to St. Peter of his abbey. This Tibb (saith John Ross) had this special bountie, that if your hawke were raviuishe, or had soared from you, you might, by offering of an hawke in waxe, or some other present, (for nothing was refused,) reclayme or recover him: hearby a man may easily espie that theise men would soon be riche, which not contented with the liberal donation of princes, &c. would leave no stone unturned, nay, no rotten bone unraked up, that might allure the simple to visit their churches, and empty their own purses. Belike that before this tyme, Faulkeners, (a dissolute sort of men indede) could not be brought to stope to pilgrimages, and therefore the monks of St. Peterborow devised *St. Tibba's Lure* for them also."

Some of the early Protestant historians had supposed that the story of the derivation of the hunter's cry " Tantivy!" being derived from the old ejaculation for help to St. Tibba, was a mere fable, and some had denied her being in the Calendar. Fuller was one of these, and asserted it in one part of his Worthies; but

soon

soon after he acknowledges his error, and calls her "a popish she saint," adding that she was no *Pagan* deity, but really a Saxon saint; because in the Index Expurgatorius, printed at Madrid by Lewis Sanchia in 1612, the passage in Camden concerning her is commanded to be expunged, "bearing a pique thereat, as grating against their superstitious practice."

There are still many traditions about her at Ryall; some of the good folks there call her a queen, and say she was wont to bathe in Tibbal's-hill spring, or Tibba's-hill well.

The *Church* is dedicated to St. John the Evangelist. It has a handsome Gothic tour of the time of Henry IV. but the spire is considered in danger of falling. The interior is Gothic, plain, but very clean, and has some neat mural monuments and atchievements. On the outside, at the north-west side, or end of the church behind the tower, are some vestiges (as it is said,) of her cell or chapel, where, as Gough says in his additions to Camden, she lived, died, and was buried; the east end of it is the west end of the church, partly introduced into it, and an aperture in the solid wall for the priest, or person in the chapel, to see the choir. In the east end of the chapel there is a square space over what was once the altar, for a picture; and close by it a small stone niche for a statue or relic. Six holes still remain to fasten a crystal or door before it; the sides and west end of the chapel are gone; one of its stone windows is in a cottage at the west end of the town. To this we must add, however, that, on a close examination, it is plain that this could not have been the actual cell of St. Tibba, as it is evidently the remains of a species of architecture unheard of until nearly six centuries after her death.

In an apartment over the porch of entrance, a school is held for the instruction of about thirty children, in English, writing, and arithmetic; it is something on the principle of a freeschool, but unfortunately there is not any permanent fund for its continuance.

The *Manor-house*, an old mansion of the Exeter family, has been

been erected on the remains of a much older edifice. It is now considerably modernised, with very pleasing, though not extensive grounds, and is the residence of Colonel Pierpoint. In its former state, it was in some measure an object of antiquarian curiosity. The manor-court was held in a chamber, which had a door made out of a piece of fine old painting, representing part of the Crucifixion, Christ and one of the thieves remaining, and said to have been given by some of the ancient lords to the church. At the entrance stood the old Buttery hatch, the hall on the right hand, with a small and very old window cut out of one stone on the staircase. The cellar resembled the crypts of ancient churches, having a roof of ribbedwork arches. In the outside wall, too, a very large arch still remains, which not only bespeaks high antiquity, but also shews that it must once have been a very extensive edifice.

In the Gentleman's Magazine for 1796, there is a passage which says, "here is an house, *now an ale house*, formerly apparently a religious building; the altar is a crypt; and I was informed by the landlady, that in her mother's time Dr. Stukeley came to see it. One of the chamber-doors is made of the remnants of old painted pannels. I made out part of a Crucifixion. The paintings are done by a good hand." This seems an allusion to the present re-edified mansion-house. Of other antiquities in this parish, we must not omit "Stableford-bridge," which Camden's continuator considers as derived from "St. Ebbe's ford," another holy virgin, cousin to St. Tibba, to whom he says, perhaps the spring opposite to St. Tibba's was consecrated, now called Jacob's Well. The conjecture is ingenious; but it may perhaps be as well derived from "St. Tibba's ford," the pronunciation being nearly the same.

When the *Act of Inclosure* took place respecting the parish, it was proved in Parliament that the *Poor* had a right of cutting furze, &c. upon the heath. In consequence of this, lands of the annual value, at that period, of ten pounds, and measuring between sixteen and seventeen acres, were awarded and set off

in lieu, for the purpose of being relet every twelve years. They now fetch fifteen guineas; and the profit rent is expended in supplying the meritorious poor with fuel, under the direction of the magistrates, and certain trustees.*

TOLTHORPE, in this immediate vicinity, is supposed by Mr. Blore to be corrupted from "the old Thorpe," or village. It has a very ancient church, modernized from recent repairs, with a small double open turret for bells. The village is very small, and lies in a most reclose situation in a bottom, on the banks of the river Guash. The mansion-house is a curious old building of Elizabeth's time, but now partly modernized; but, by the view of it in Wright's Rutland, it seems to have once consisted of a low centre, with two loftier advancing wings; the roofs were pointed, with small turrets and spires; the windows stone-framed; and two stone ballustraded balconies, one at a corner of each wing.

In early times this was a place of some consequence; for at the Domesday survey there were four mills, value forty shillings; and from the evident antiquity of a large mill which is still in existence here, it is not impossible that it may be actually on the site, perhaps containing some of the remains of one of these. The historians of this county give these lands (according to Domesday-book,) to William Fitz-Ausculf, and then to Nicholas Burton, in the reign of Edward II.; but we have ascertained, that previous to Burton's holding they were part of the possessions of John de Semery, that fact being expressly stated in the "Calendarium Inquisitionum post mortem," taken in the reign of Edward II.† After this it came to the Brownes of Stamford; and *Agnes*, the widow of John Browne, in the reign of Henry VI. left a curious will, highly illustrative of the manners of those times.

"To the church of Allhallows of Stamford, a vestment of a suite the which *shall cost me*, by the oversight of my friend that *shall occupy for me*, 100 marks."

This

* Blore's Rutland. † Vide Calen. Inq. Vol. I. p. 306.

This was literally clinging to life after death; and she seems not only to have considered the money as her own after her departure from this world, but to have been resolved to gratify her taste for singing, *to some tune*, having left 75l. "to a priest to sing for me fifteen years continually." At her funeral, too, she was likely to have noise enough made in the performance of her obsequies, for she left "to every curate that comes to my dirige, six-pence; priests, four-pence; parish clerks, two-pence." The good old lady also seems to have been much occupied in performing the office of sponsor to her neighbour's and friend's children; for, unable to ascertain all their names, she leaves in a lump, "to every God-child that I have, 3s. 4d." Her son, Christopher, was highly honoured by King Henry VIII. for his exertions in favour of the Lancastrian cause in the contest between Richard III. and Henry VII; for he not only granted to his son Francis an exemption from serving upon juries, or in the office of sheriff, but also allowed him the privilege of being covered in the royal presence.

Mr. Blore observes, that not far from the manor-house, there is a spring of carbonated chalybeate water, without any mixture of the sulphuric acid. It is something similar to, but less powerful than, the water of Tunbridge Wells, and may be taken, he adds, with success in similar cases; but it is better to be drank at the spring, as its salutary properties are not sufficiently permanent for distant carriage.

Belmesthorpe is a small village, prettily situated on the south-east verge of the county. It was originally the property of the famous Lady Godiva, but contains nothing now to excite the curiosity even of a "Peeping Tom."

On approaching the great north road, we come to LITTLE CASTERTON, which lies about one mile to the eastward of it. It is a pretty little, but *modern* hamlet, lying in a hollow, and not of such high antiquity as the Norman survey. In the reign of Edward II. it was church property, but afterwards came to the Crown, and has since been in the Browne family, and others, being

being at this moment advertised for sale. It is but a small parish, consisting of not more than 700 acres, which lay open and uninclosed until 1796. The church is dedicated to All Saints, and is not older than the reign of Henry II. as the oldest part of it, which is the north aisle, has its arches of the style of Anglo-Norman architecture of that time, with a variety of fancifully ornamented capitals to the pillars. The other parts seem of a later date, and have some very fine lancet windows. The monumental remains are but few; and the only one deserving of notice is at the end of the south aisle, being a stone of a coffin shape, lying on the ground, under an obtuse pointed arch of the later Gothic, with very deep mouldings, and supported by short pillars. There are no other antiquities, except some slight remains of earth works to the westward of the church, in a field still called the Hill-close; and these Mr. Blore thinks may be the remains of "Scrope's manor," or of the mansion of the Prior of Newstead, when the parish belonged to that monastery.

Bridge Casterton, which lies upon the Great north road, and also upon the ancient Roman *Ermine Street*, has given rise to a greater variety of opinions among antiquaries than perhaps any place in the British empire.

It has by some been supposed to be the ancient Roman station of *Gausennæ*, or *Causennis*, which others again place at Nottingham. Some again imagine the present name of it to have given an appellation to Kesteven in Lincolnshire.

Burton, in his Commentary, says, "Brig Casterton, vetustatis nomen apparet, so called quasi Oppidum Castrorum, because of a camp there some time of the Romans:" and he adds, that "Brig in the beginning thereof (as Camden says,) denotes the passage over the river there by a bridge."

Some have supposed this place to be the "Durobrivis" of the Itinerary; but Reynolds, in his late Commentary, starts an idea that Durobrivis is *Lynn* in Norfolk; and that Causennis is *Boston!*

Burton again, in his Commentary on the Iter, (p. 203,) carries Durobrivis to Dornford near Wansford, but seems to think, with Camden,

Camden, that Causennis is Casterton: and Dr. Gale, in page 94, under the head of "Durobrivis," says, "Dorneford Camdeno, ubi manifesta vidit urbis prostatæ indicia, et nummos Romanos. Numeri M. P. vero hic multum redundant Antonino, dissitæ sunt enim Durobrivæ se et Dorneford habeantur, vix XX milliaria a Duroliponte. Suspicor itaque Durobrivis hisce esse. Brig Casterton ad secundum ultra Stamfordiam lapidem et pro XXXV legenda esse XXX M. P. quæ vera est distantia inter Oppidum illud et Gormancaster, atque eo potius quod fere eandem habet a Causennis, quam, et illis assignat Antoninus."

After so many, and such wild, conjectures, we are almost afraid to venture any opinion upon its identity, further than that it was most certainly a Roman station, of which there are the remains of the encampment on the south-east side of the present village. This seems to have been fortified with a very deep moat on both sides, being sufficiently defended on the other two by the river; but it is probable that the Romans had some more permanent fortifications than mere earth works; for in a pasture which is still called the "Castle-close," foundations of a wall have been dug up not many years ago, as Mr. Gough tells us in his additions to Camden.

Here was evidently the great road called "Ermine Street;" and though the present road does not precisely keep its line, yet some part of its raised bank is still very visible in some places four or five feet high, between Casterton and the lane turning down to Tickencote, on the western side.*

Even the *name* of this road, as well as its *direction*, has given rise to some controversy. Selden considers it derived from the word "Irmensul," a name given by the Saxons to *Mercury*, who, according to the Roman mythology, presided over high-ways

* Its line of direction in this neighbourhood is across Burleigh park, along the western side of the wall of Austin Friars at Stamford; then across the Uppingham road joining the present north road half way between Stamford and Bridge Casterton, thence to Horn-lane, where it soon after divides, one branch going towards Nottingham, the other by Stretton, &c. Vide Harrod's Stamford.

ways in general. Kennet and Burton again agree in deriving it from "Armyinth," a British word, because it crosses mountains and pathless places; but perhaps its more natural derivation is from the Saxon word Herman, a *warrior*, whence *Erming Street* is the *military road*.

Stukeley says of it, that it passes a "little above Stamford, between it and Tynwell; then rises again upon the opposite hill, entering Lincolnshire, with its broad and elated crest, till it goes to Bridge Casterton; it is composed all the way of stone, gravel, and hard materials, got near at hand."

Its state in 1727 is thus described by Peck in his Annals of Stamford: "Being passed Bridge Casterton, Erming Street appears again very plainly just beyond the place where a track on the left turns out of the great road to Tickencote. Thence it carries you almost to Horn-lane with a very high bank. A little before you enter that lane, and till you are got through it, the bank being much worn by frequent travelling, is but discernible; but immediately beyond it rises again with a greater eminence." Another quotation from the same author will serve to amuse, and to shew on what very slight foundations antiquaries will sometimes build their systems. "Before I leave Bridge Casterton, a word or two concerning a coin found there. In the parsonage-house, about 1708, was found a remarkable Roman coin, (what emperor I could not learn,) with a Britannia, (very like that on our modern half-pence,) on the reverse. It was presented by Mr. Jonathan Clough, then rector of that place, to the late Mr. William Forster, then rector of St. Michael's, Stamford, as a curiosity worthy of his particular regard. Mr. Forster himself, from whom I had this account, told me, with some concern, that leaving this coin one day in his parlour window, some of his children met with it, and taking it for an halfpenny, or farthing, disposed of it, so as he could never hear of it again: whereof I have nothing more to add, but that meeting lately with Mr. Clough, after acquainting him with what Mr. Forster told me as above, all that he pleased to answer was, it was so long ago he could not remember whether he ever gave Mr. Forster such a

coin, much less what emperor it was, or whether ding up, or only found, *dropped in the house.*" This learned, assiduous, and evidently very minute antiquary, after great research, says "the learned bishop Kennet mentions two coins, one of *Carausius*, and the other of *Allectus*, both which had, on the reverse, the picture of Pallas, with an olive leaf in her right hand, reaching it out in token of peace offered; and a spear in her left hand, that if peace was refused, then wars should ensue: the same with one of which might probably be the coin above, which coin, if it belonged to either of those princes, was minted before the year of Christ 294, when Allectus, the last of them, was slain by Asclepiodotus."

After these very ingenious conjectures, we shall not take up the reader's time longer than to notice some later ideas on this place. Horsley, in his Britannia Romana, is expressly of opinion that the *Durobrivæ* of the northern Iters, for there was another Durobrivis in Kent, was *Caster*, or the station near it; but he adds, "at Bridge Casterton, two miles north from Stamford, there has also been a station. It is situated on the north east side, and near a crook of the small river that runs by it. This station is *not named* in the Iter; nor can I think that both these are mentioned together in one Iter. For in no Iter, where those two places can possibly occur, is there a distance between any two stations, suitable, or nearly equal, to the distance between Castor and Bridge Casterton, which is but nine computed miles."

Salmon attempted to unravel these difficulties; but *Reynolds* shews how little dependence can be placed on his reveries; and Dr. Mason, in his remarks upon Gough, says of him, "Salmon wrote ex professo upon the Itinerary; and as he rode over the whole kingdom for that purpose, one might expect great improvements from him. But whatever opinion he had once embraced, no reasoning, however clear and strong, could ever remove him from persisting in it. He has all along pretended to find a military way, whenever he wanted it, in places where there is not the least appearance of any such thing. Remains, he also talks of, where there certainly are none; and great camps, where they

 are

are very insignificant, or not Roman. And excepting a few observations, which are to be admitted with some caution, there is nothing worth attending to in his whole design, all his Itinerary being laid down as if the Romans had chiefly intended, by traversing the country, to make their journeys as long as they could, and also to avoid good roads."

Having thus gone through the *conjectural* history of Casterton, we are arrived at that period, when it is supposed by Camden to have been destroyed by the Picts and Scots, at the time when Hengist and his Saxon troops stopped their further incursions at Stamford. In the Saxon times, it was held by Earl Morcar; and at the Norman survey it was in the hands of Hugh Fitz-Balderic. From him it came to the family of De La War; and soon afterwards, in the reign of Henry VI. to Lord Scroope, of Bolton. During the early part of the reign of Henry VIII. it was the property of the Lord Hussey; but he being attainted of high treason, it came afterwards to the Exeter family. It is a curious fact, that although both town and parish are called Casterton, yet the manor, which Mr. Blore says is co-extensive with the parish, is more commonly called in public records, *Woodhead*, or *Wodeheved*, from the residence of the ancient lords in its high woodland part, more than a mile north from the village, and a little west from the public road leading from Casterton to Pickworth; and where the site of their mansion may be traced by the foundation of walls within a square moat.

The *Bridge*, which gives it the *adjunct*, consists of several arches; and near it is the ancient Gothic *Church*, close to the road side, with its tower and light airy pinnacles. It is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul; of one of whom there is a curious ancient figure on the outside in a niche over the east window, and of which a very good engraving may be found in Mr. Blore's New Survey of the County. Though not very large, yet this church has a nave and two small aisles, with the capitals of the pillars which support the arches very richly ornamented with foliage; but the present edifice is evidently a re-edification, as these pillars, the chancel in part, and the porch, seem of higher antiquity

than the other parts of the building. The light over the altar is formed of *two* lancet-pointed windows; their shafts are very slender; and their capitals are richly foliaged in the latest Gothic style of ornament. Mr. Blore observes, that the church must have been originally intended on a larger plan, for the roof of the belfry in the tower is groined, has armorial shields at the four corners, and this tower seems to have been designed to form the centre of the edifice, which, by the style and the arms in the groins of the arches, appears to have been erected about the time of Henry VI. Mr. Blore has endeavoured, but without success, to ascertain the object of a curious monument under a flat arch in the outside wall of the south aisle. It consists merely of the head, hands, and feet, of a recumbent figure, sunk in squares at the two ends of a stone slab, and is deserving of notice.

In the ecclesiastical taxation of Pope Nicholas in 1291, this church is estimated at 8l.; so that it is probable that part of the present building is as old as that period.

Before we leave Casterton, it may not be useless to mention the "Linum perenne" or perennial blue flax, may be found wild on both sides of the north road in its vicinity, and in the various stony fields near it.

Tynwell is a large straggling village on the Uppingham road; and, according to Mr. Blore, anciently called "Tedinwelle," from *Tede*, signifying hay-grass, and *Ing*, a meadow. It lies on the north bank of the Welland, in the valley between the counties of Rutland and Northampton; and has a very ancient church with a slope roofed tower, dedicated to All Saints. In the inside are the arms of the *Cecils* in many parts; and on the east wall of the chancel is the following curious epitaph:

"Rainerus jacet heic Hermanus, origine Tanger, qui novit multa, et multis impertiit, in quo docti cum cultis habitarunt moribus artes, Christi sancti fides Zelus pietatis aviti. ætatis 51. Octob. 18. Obiit Anno Domini 1668." Who this learned *Herman Rainer* was, or how a native of Tangier in Barbary came to Tynwell, we could not ascertain: for though by his epitaph he seems to have been learned enough for a conjuror, yet he must

Engraved by Woolnoth, from a Drawing by J.P. Neale.

for the Beauties of England & Wales.

TYNWELL CHURCH,
Rutlandshire.

London Published by John Harris, St Paul's Church Yard Sept 1 1814.

must have been the last in the place, as we could find no person that knew any thing about him.

The village contains some good comfortable houses; and there is a very antique manor-house of the Elizabethan age, now a farm-house, but still a very good specimen of the style of that period. Near this also were once some ruins, which we were not fortunate enough to find: but Peck, in his Stamford, says, "the stream of the Welland is stopped by a cataract, or *wash*, as it is called, about half way between Stamford and Tynwell; and part of it conveyed to a mill of great antiquity called King's Mill. Much about half way between the foresaid little bridge and wash stood Bredcroft-house, a place where formerly the sessions, as tradition says, were kept for Rutland. The foundations of the old structure may yet be plainly discovered on the northern bank of this water-course."

Passing over *Witchley Common*, from whence there is a fine view of Northampton and Lincolnshires, we arrive at *Ketton*, a small, but ancient village, a little to the left of the road. It was the property of Richard de Humet as early as the reign of Stephen; from whom it came through several hands to the Harringtons, and then to the Noels, being now the property of the heir of the Gainsborough estates. Its tenure is by knight's service; and it is a curious fact, that the sheriffs of the county collect annually a rent of two shillings from the inhabitants, "pro ocreis reginæ," which can only be translated "*for the queen's boots.*" This may perhaps have been sufficient in early times to have supplied a queen with boots for a year, though now it would scarcely furnish wax and ends even if queens were to make their own boots, according to the fashion of the day.

The church is extremely ancient, and of Saxon origin. The west door is stated by Mr. Blore to be a mixture of the Norman style, which was on the decline, and of the Gothic, then beginning to prevail; but we may add that it has a Saxon centre, and two Gothic side doors with Saxon ornaments; and also, that from the highly ornamented style of the centre, we should suppose

that part of a very old date, particularly as the church was in a very old and ruinous state in 1291, so that it is most likely to have been built at the period spoken of, sometime about the middle of Stephen's reign, or 1144.

When re-edified, it was erected in the form of a cathedral, being nearly as beautiful, though not so large, as the mother church of Lincoln: and Hugh de Wells, then bishop of that see, was so anxious for its completion, that he granted a release of twenty days' penance to all those who should contribute any thing to the building or repair of this church of the Blessed Mary at Ketton. It is now, as Mr. Wright and all other writers agree, the neatest parish church in all those parts for design and structure. It is indeed a most elegant specimen of ecclesiastical architecture even now, being kept in most excellent repair, and affords a good idea of the piety of early times. In the interior there are yet many remains of antiquity, for three of the ancient stalls, and some of the ancient pews, are still preserved. Near the chancel there is a monument, inserted in the wall, of the date of 1694, and to the memory of *Ferdinando Caldecote*, who is stated to have left twelve children, an equal number of each sex; and near it is another to *Robert Whitbye*, who was prebendary of Ketton, this being one of the prebends of the see of Lincoln. There are two of a more modern date, which we shall insert. The first is for a man who will not find many to imitate him at the present day.

"Sacred to the memory of Anthony Hotchkis, Grocer and Citizen of London, who, in the midst of life, and a very gainful trade, satisfied with moderate acquisitions, retired here from the hurry of business, to the quiet enjoyment of himself, his friends, and fortune; affording a rare instance of contentment; but, alas! a very common one of human disappointment. He was seized with a lingering illness that put a period to his life, Feb. 19, 1763, in the 48th year of his age."

The other displays such a *curious* article of Faith, that we are surprized how it got there, and much more that it should be permitted to remain;

"Here

"Here lies Francis Wetton, Esq. who exchanged this frail life in hopes of a glorious immortality, through the *merits* of God, and the merits of Jesus Christ, August 11, 1735 in the 78th year of his age."

But the greatest curiosity of this church is its tower and spire, or *Broche* as we were told it *should* be called, by a venerable churchwarden, who acted as a kind of cicerone to the editor of these sheets. In fact, the tower has no battlements; and the spire springing at once from its summit, it seems that the distinction may be a just one. The tower is rich in ornament, and light in execution, having three lofty Gothic lancet windows on each side, with clustered pillars; so slight indeed does it appear, that a doubt might be entertained of its capability of supporting the spire, if the experience of past ages had not proved it. The spire also is rich in grotesque ornaments, ribbed at the corners, being octangular, lightened of much of its weight by means of twelve windows highly enriched, and having four images at the principal corners. The whole is 180 feet in height.

There has formerly been much armorial glass in the windows, but it is entirely gone.

Near this there is a neat mansion, recently inhabited by the late Lady Jane Edwards, mother of Colonel Noel, and only daughter and heiress of the last Earl of Gainsborough. Near this there are the remains of an old mansion, which we did not see except at a distance, but which Mr. Blore calls "Constable's, or Greneham's manor," and which he says is about a quarter of a mile south-east from the church, on a rising ground on the south-side of the river Chater; and though what remains of it is now in a forlorn condition, it exhibits evidences of very respectable antiquity in some of the windows, and in the arched roof of timber in the hall.

What is called the "Old Town Estate" in this parish, consists of lands which were formerly granted for the purchase of white bread and ale, to be distributed on Cross Monday, or the Invention of the Holy Cross, which falls on Monday after the 3d. of May;

but this is now applied to a better purpose by the trustees, who have had a piece of ground set out to them, on the enclosure of the parish, which lets for 7l. per annum, which is expended on the education of ten poor children in English, and will now be sufficient to instruct five times the number, if the modern system should be adopted.

This parish has also recently received a bequest in a singular will of a Mr. John Warrington of Stamford, who died in 1806, and left 4000l. in the five per cents. to trustees, to pay eighty pounds per annum to each of his two brothers as long as they continue unmarried, but no longer. After their demise, the interest is to be given to fifty poor widows, or unmarried women, out of this parish, (and others, Empingham in Rutland, and Uffington, Tallington, and Market Deeping, in Lincolnshire) who must be fifty-five years of age, not guilty of any irregularity, sober, and good attenders at church. He allows fifty shillings to the trustees and clergy for their annual meeting; but, with all the little arrogance of posthumous vanity, orders that not a shilling shall be expended for these purposes until a large table containing all the particulars shall be set up in each of the churches!!!

We now proceed to

Martinsley Hundred,

which contains 15,340 acres, with a population of 3119, consisting of 1514 males, and 1605 females. These form 702 families, inhabiting 649 houses, and there were 18 houses uninhabited in 1801. Of the total number of persons, 477 were employed in agriculture, and 426 in trade and handicraft.

The parishes in this hundred are, Ayston, Edithweston, Hambleton, (Hambledon, or Hamilton, as it is variously spelled,) Lynden, Manton, Martinsthorpe, Normanton, Preston, Ridlington, Uppingham, and Wing.

The boundaries of this division are Oakham Soke, or Hundred, on the west, Wrangdyke on the south and east, Alstoe and

East

East Hundreds on the north and east. Its fee is now in the Crown.

On entering this division from East Hundred, the first village we come to is

EDITHWESTON, a village of farm-houses, with a very ancient church. The light Gothic spire of this edifice is deserving of notice, and the antiquarian tourist will also observe an ancient mansion close to the church, which seems to have been the manor-house; it is very low, like most of the mansions of the Elizabethan age, and has some very curious Gothic door-ways.

It is probable that the church was in existence at the foundation (or soon after) of an Alien Priory of Benedictine monks, cell to the Abbey of St. George at Banquerville in Normandy, to which it was given by William de Tankerville, Chamberlain to King Henry I.; * and it is not unlikely that the ancient mansion, close to it, is part of the old priory, particularly from its very venerable appearance.

About the 14th of Richard II. this priory was conveyed to the Carthusians of Coventry, and as part and parcel of their possessions was given in the 4th of Edward VI. to William, Marquis of Northampton; and from him it passed through the Herberts to the family of Halford, which had been seated here for nearly two centuries.

There is little else here to interest the tourist, unless he has a taste for botany, which may be gratified by a search after the *Parnassia Palustris*, or Grass of Parnassus, which is found in all the marshy meadows, and also the *Dipsacus Pilosus*, the small wild teasel, or shepherd's rod.

NORMANTON, which once stood near it, is now completely depopulated, nothing remaining but its venerable little church, which stands separate from all other buildings in the grounds of *Normanton House*. Its appearance is interesting, its little Gothic turret peeping out from a shrubbery; yet it is impossible not to deplore that false taste, which, in order to form a smooth lawn,

* Tanner's Monasticon.

lawn, will drive away the simple villagers, and level their rustic cots with the ground where their humble ancestors repose.

This place was celebrated by *Dyer* in his "Fleece," as particularly favourable to sheep,

> " ——————— the clover'd lawns
> And sunny mounts of beauteous Normanton,
> Health's cheerful haunt, and the selected walk
> Of Heathcote's leisure." ———

Mr. Dyer, however, had not to lament a depopulated village; nor is it perhaps a source of unhappiness to the once humble inhabitants, as the present benevolent landlord seems to have attended to the comfort of his industrious dependents residing in the neighbouring cottages; yet still the impression produced by an isolated church, is of that sombre kind to excite the tear of sympathy, and the sigh of regret for miseries, perhaps imaginary. This place is not mentioned in the Norman Survey, but soon after the Conquest was the property of the family of Normanville, then settled in the county of Kent, and from whom it evidently took its name. Their heiress general carried it to William de Basings about the time of Edward II. whose family had their residence here, part of which was probably in the ancient manor-house, which appears to have been two stories high with two wings, and an advanced porch, the roof being ballustraded *.

From the Basings it passed to the Mackworths, afterwards Baronets, and from them was purchased by an ancestor of the present Sir Gilbert Heathcote, Bart.

The modern residence of

NORMANTON HOUSE

stands in a park containing about 400 acres, well planted with about two thousand large timber trees, principally oak, ash, beech, and

* The ancient town-house of this family, in the metropolis, was situated where Blackwell Hall now stands, and gave name to Basinghall Street and ward.

and limes, whose shade and foliage have a very fine effect; and some parts are pleasingly scattered amongst broken grounds, though the park in general is on a dead flat.

The mansion is an elegant modern edifice of white stone, with a centre of fine elevation and two wings; both fronts being in a style of great architectural beauty, and the interior presenting a rich scene of modern elegance throughout.

From the *Hall*, which is light and airy, and contains some good statues, we proceed to the *Library*, an elegant room fitted up with sofas, and the books so covered with handsome chintz curtains that it has more the appearance of a dressing room, than an apartment occupied for purposes of study.

Passing through the *Small Drawing Room*, which is fitted up with studied elegance, we enter a *Dressing Room*, in a simple style of ornament, and containing a portrait of the late amiable and lamented Mrs. Duff, and four small, but handsome, landscapes.

The *Dining Room* is a very superb apartment, with a vaulted and stuccoed ceiling, in compartments. Over the fire-place is the original painting of the present Lady Heathcote, in the character of Hebe, the engraved copies of which have been so much admired in the London print-shops. Here is also a very handsome painting of *Moses* found in the bulrushes, evidently by an artist of considerable skill, though unknown.

The *Drawing Room* is a most brilliant apartment, fitted up with embossed gold paper, with gilt borders and mouldings; the chairs are of light blue satin, with white flowers; and the whole is extremely light and elegant, without being gaudy.

The *State Bed Room* is in a style of simple magnificence; the bed of white and gold, with the furniture and ornaments of the walls to correspond; the *Dressing Room* belonging to it is also a handsome specimen of modern taste, and the ceiling in particular is very fine, being elegantly painted in treillage and foliage.

The *Back Drawing Room* has a pleasant bow-recess, and is fitted

fitted up with spotted Chinese paper, with crimson pannels on which are laughing and sporting Cupids in chiaro scuro, and interspersed with pannel slips of plate-glass.

Each suite of apartments, on both floors, has doors which throw open a vista from end to end; and as there are large plate-glass mirrors at each extremity, the reduplicated effect is extremely fine.

The *Gardens* are modern, and not very extensive; but the *Grounds* are neatly laid out, and have some very fine prospects in different points of view.

The botanist who rambles through Normanton Park, and its vicinity, will be much pleased with the various specimens of a very scarce plant, the *Gentiana autumnalis fugax*, or later autumnal Gentian.

LYNDEN lies between Edithweston and Manton, but is not mentioned in the Norman Survey, though in the reign of Edward II. it was a Royal manor. Edward III. granted it to Robert de Corby and Joan his wife; but in the reign of Henry IV. it was the property of John Deneys, from whom it went through Payton and Hunt, until it was purchased by Sir Abel Barker and Thomas Barker, his brother, who left both the manor and advowson to Sir Thomas Barker, Bart. who appears to have built the house, from the date 1675 on an ancient chimney-piece in one of the apartments.

The *Hall* is now the property of Thomas Barker, Esq. and is an antique edifice, in the style of the early part of the seventeenth century.

The interior of the house is a good specimen of old English comfort, without any of the appendages of modern frippery. On an old chimney-piece is carved a characteristic motto of

> "Aureum quisquis mediocritatem
> Dilegit, tutus caret obsolete
> Sedibus tecti, caret evidanda
> Sobrius aula."

and

and one of the lower apartments is peculiarly interesting, from containing an original painting of the celebrated *Whiston*, who was maternally great grandfather of the present worthy possessor of the mansion. He is drawn with his finger lifted, his left hand holding a book, and his countenance deeply in the act of philosophic cogitation. This portrait was executed by a lady, of whom Horace Walpole says, "Mrs. Hoadly, whose maiden name was Sarah Curtis, was disciple of Mrs. Beal, and a paintress of portraits by profession, when she was so happy as to become the wife of that great and good man, Dr. Hoadly, afterwards Bishop of Winchester. From that time she only practised the art for her amusement; though, if we may judge of her talents by the print from her portrait of Whiston, the art lost as much as she gained. She died in 1745."

Near him also hangs a picture of his daughter, and of her husband, the learned Thomas Barker, Esq. a frequent and intelligent correspondent of the Royal Society. He, and his learned father-in-law, seem indeed to have dedicated great part of their time, whilst at Lynden, to philosophical pursuits and observations. Mr. Whiston, in the Phil. Trans. Vol. III. gives an extraordinary account of two mock suns, and a curious halo, seen here in 1721; and in the XLVIIth volume of the same work, there is an account of an extraordinary phænomenon seen here on the 15th of September 1749, which resembled a water-spout, communicated by Mr. Barker. It passed over *Seaton* field, crossed *Glaiston* and *Morcot*, towards *Pilton's* town end; split an oak tree, sixteen inches in diameter; and passed off between *Edithweston* and *Hambledon*. Another mineralogical phænomenon, or rather *discovery*, took place here in 1780, when, in digging a trench for the laying of a drain, a great number of pieces of *Talc* were dug up in a stiff blue clay; and we understand, that talc has also been found in various other parts of the county.

The church, which is a small Gothic edifice with a neat tower, stands at the back of the hall, and in its simple burying-ground lies

lies the celebrated Philosopher, covered with an humble sod, but with an head-stone inserted in the wall, on which is inscribed

"Here lieth the body of
The Rev. William Whiston, M. A.
He was born Dec. 9th 1667,
and died Aug. 22, 1752,
In the 85th year of his age.
His writings shew
His unwearied study,
And extensive knowledge
in various parts of Literature;
His sufferings for conscience sake
prove his sincerity.
After a life spent
In piety towards God,
And benevolence and charity
towards man,
He rests in hope
through the merits of Christ
Of a joyful and blessed resurrection,
to eternal life."

Though he was not a native of this county, but of Leicestershire, we cannot omit the following anecdote of him, in this place. In the year 1725, he was accustomed to attend Queen Caroline, along with other learned men, one evening in every week, to talk of the progress of science. The queen paying him a compliment on his candour and sincerity, requested him to tell her of her faults; and after some time he mentioned her irreverend behaviour at chapel, as having made an unfavourable impression on the minds of strangers. The queen said nothing; but about six weeks afterwards again requested him to recount her faults. "Madam," said he, "I have laid it down as a maxim never

never to tell any person of more than one fault at a time, and never to mention a second, *until the first is* mended." *

HAMBLEDON stands upon a hill, north of Lynden. It is sometimes spelled Hambleden, and Hamilton, but anciently 'Hameldune,' perhaps meaning the *hamlet on the hill.* In Saxon times it was the property of Queen Editha, wife of Edward the Confessor, and at the Norman Survey was principally in the hands of the Conqueror himself, when it was certainly of much more consequence than at present; for here were then no less than three churches and three priests, who had one bovate and eight acres of land. The inhabitants consisted of one hundred and forty villeins, and thirteen bordarii, and the whole property, including a mill, and a wood *three miles in length, and one in breadth,* was valued at fifty-two pounds.

When this manor was the property of Bartholomew, Lord Badlesmere, in the reign of Edward II. that nobleman procured a royal warrant for a weekly Monday market, and for an annual fair on the eve, day, and morrow, of St. Bartholomew, then the 14th of August; but those have long been discontinued.

The manor afterwards went through various hands, until it came into possession of the Duke of Buckingham, who sold it to the Harringtons, and it is now the property of the Earl of Winchelsea.

Here is an old *Hall,* in the Elizabethan style, but occupied as a farm-house. In an upper apartment there are still preserved several suits of plate armour.

MANTON lies close to the road from Oakham to Uppingham. It is not described in the Norman Survey, but Tanner in his Monasticon says, that the manors of Manton and Tixover belonged to the Abbey of Clugny in Burgundy, which might probably have a cell at one of these places. It appears, however, that the Clugny monks had only one part of the manor in the reign of Edward

* A nephew of this gentleman, son of his brother Daniel, the Rev. Thomas Whiston, died in 1795, at the advanced age of 95. He was minister of Ramsey, in Huntingdonshire.

Edward II. the other part then belonging to Guy de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick.

Here was an ancient *Chauntry*, of which there are still some remains incorporated in the old manor house, or hall, which stands in the village.

The village itself is but moderate sized, though very ancient, and the church is very small, with a peaked turret for two bells; yet it is said that this was a collegiate church in the reign of Edward III. It must have been on a very small scale, however, for the only further notice we can find of its endowment, (which by the bye has slipped the notice of earlier county historians) is in the *Calendarium Inquisitionum ad quod Damnum*, taken in the reign of Edward III. which says,

"Willielmus Wade dedit duobus Capellanis quasdam terras messueag' et unum molend' in Manton."

This *Collegiate* foundation therefore, seems to have been nothing more than having two chaplains established on this small property, unless we can suppose the collegiate church establishment, and the *Chauntry*, to be one and the same thing; for the latter was founded for the maintenance of one master, or governor, and two stipendiary brethren to celebrate divine service here *for ever*.

It appears that they had lands and tenements in Pikewell, in Leicestershire, of the yearly value of 6l. 16s. besides other spiritual and temporal property in Rutlandshire, the whole of which was valued at the suppression at 29l. out of which they had to pay several sums of thirty-six shillings for rent, ten shillings and fivepence for Procurations and Synodals, three and fourpence for pensions, and thirty shillings and fivepence for alms to the poor.

At the dissolution the *Plate* was only *seven ounces;* but the ornaments, household stuffs, goods, and chattels, were valued at 27l. 3s. 4d.; all of which was seized on by the legal plunderers; and though the number of communicants (or houseling people) then in the parish amounted to one hundred yet it appeared that

Sir

Sir William Smith, one of the brethren of the chauntry, did the duty of the cure for 3l. 6s. 8d. and his diet.

MARTINSTHORPE, (vulgarly called "Mastrop,") lies on the west side of the Oakham road. It had formerly a seat of the Earls of Denbigh, who afterwards sold it to the Devonshire family. It was a handsome edifice of two stories and a basement, with a light portico and battlements, and twelve windows in a line in front: but was pulled down in 1755, except the chapel, which had a roof set over it; and the stables were turned into a tenant's house.

It is now completely a scene of desolation, not having a tree, or other vestige of ancient habitancy, except the remains of the stables, now inhabited by a shepherd and his family. The chapel has neither spire nor turret; its windows are gone, and it seems totally deserted; and, as we understand, has merely a sermon preached in it on particular occasions, in order to secure the possession, the living in all other respects being a mere sinecure. The church-yard wall is in ruins; but there are some mounds of earth and rubbish which seem to point out the site of the ancient abode of mirth and hospitality.

RIDLINGTON is a small village within the limits of Leafield Forest, very pleasantly situated in the midst of rich scenery of wood-lands and cultivated inclosures. It contains only fifty houses, and 178 inhabitants; but the whole seem comfortable and industrious,

In the Saxon times, then called "Ridlictune," it was part of the property of Queen Editha, who there held four carucates of land. But at the Norman Survey it was estimated, in the whole, at sixteen carucates, of which the king himself held four carucates in demesne, with an hundred and seven villeins, twenty-six bordarii, and two socmen; so that its population (of 153 men, independent of women and children, besides servants) was considerably greater than at the present day. This is also evident from its having had at that time two priests and three churches; here also there were two seats, or places for mills, forty acres of mea-

dow, and a wood which was three miles in length, and eight furlongs in breadth; the whole manor, in the Saxon times, having been valued at forty pounds.

In the reign of Edward II. the manor was jointly held by two Lords, Robert de Hoyland, and John de Wynill; but in the reign of James I. we find it had passed through several hands to the Harringtons, from whom it came to the Noels.

Its church is antique, and contains a monumental record of the sixteenth century for Sir James Harrington, Knt. and for his wife Frances, by whom he had a family of nine sons and seven daughters.

South-east of this, towards Uppingham, is the village of AYSTON, which contains only twenty-two houses, and ninety-two inhabitants; but it has a neat Gothic church, with a low tower, which is kept in very good order, and has a very fine window of modern coloured glass, with the crucifix in the centre, and scriptural devices in the other parts. There are still some old monumental remains in the church-yard, particularly two figures very much defaced; they are both carved in stone, and evidently cut out of one stone; one is in armour, the other has a cross on the breast; but for whom they may have been intended is now unknown.

Here is a handsome seat of George Fludger, Esq. lately re-edified, of handsome elevation, and faced with white stone.

This manor is not described in the Norman Survey, being at that period, as supposed, a hamlet of Ridlington. In the reign of Edward I. it was called "Astoneston," and was then given by Sir William Murdoc, Knt. to his son Hugh, who having died without leaving issue soon after, the lands fell to his sister, Alice, wife of Thomas de Boyville.

With her heirs the manor remained until the reign of Edward IV. when it was again carried away by a coheiress to Thomas Restwold, husband of Margaret, one of the three daughters of the last John de Boyville. From him it came to the Brudenells, and has followed the line of descent of their estates.

PRESTON

PRESTON is an ancient village, about one mile from Uppingham. In it is a very antique farm-house, once the manor-house, built in a most venerable style of architecture; and there is also a good house, close to the high road, the property of the present incumbent.

The *Church* is very ancient, has some Saxon arches in the interior, and is adorned with some very handsome monumental tablets and atchievements.

There is no mention of this manor in the Norman Survey; but in the reign of Edward IV. it was the property of the gallant high-spirited Earl of Warwick, Richard Neville; with the story of whose unfortunate widow Anne, daughter of Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, this manor is much connected, she having brought this, and many others, into the Neville family. When Neville fell in the fatal action at Barnet, his former friend, but then bitter enemy, seized upon all his estates, but settled them upon his two daughters, Isabel and Anne, whom he married to his two younger brothers, the Dukes of Clarence and Gloucester, the latter of whom was afterwards Richard III. It has been supposed that the Dowager Countess was suspected by Edward of being not only privy to, but a warm encourager of, her husband's designs; in consequence of which she was totally neglected in the partition of the estates, and had not even the smallest part of her own lands allotted to her for mere subsistence, so that she was actually left destitute, and was obliged to seek refuge, and to take sanctuary, in Beaulieu Abbey in Hampshire. Even there, it is said, she was not personally safe, but was soon after obliged to conceal herself in the North of England during great part of Edward's reign, and the whole of that of Richard. On the accession of Henry VII. however, that monarch, convinced of her steady attachment to the Lancastrian cause, and feeling the injustice to which she had so long been subject, immediately restored to her all her estates, her daughters being both dead without issue, and had the Act of Parliament annulled which had deprived her of her property. Such was her gratitude,

that she immediately settled them in reversion upon Henry and his heirs male, which brought them to the Crown; but in the reign of Edward VI. this manor and several others were alienated to different persons.

The botanical tourist may find here in the hedges, the *Linaria odorata*, or sweet smelling toad flax, and at the bases of the hills the *Mentha arvensis*, or Spicy Water Mint.

UPPINGHAM

is the second town of the county, but in some repects superior to Oakham, its houses being in general extremely well built, its streets well paved, and very clean, and a great air of business being visible on all sides. It is principally built to form a square, in which the church stands on the south side, and it has also one long street leading to the west end; but a visitor may walk round the principal part of it without seeing the *front* of a house, an arrangement which gives the interior of the square an air of great seclusion.

Leland, who visited it in the time of Henry VIII. says "it is a market-town. Is but one meane streete, and hath but a very meane church;" and Camden, and his continuator, do not speak of it in much higher terms. The former says that it derives its name from its situation upon a hill; but Gibson denies this, saying, that although the ground on which it stands be something above a level, yet it will hardly amount to a hill. The Editors of the "Magna Britannia" then conclude, that its being on an ascent, of any kind, will justify Camden's expression of *locus acclivis;* but if all these grave continuators and commentators had taken the trouble of looking at the place about which they were disputing, they would have found that the name of *Uppingham*, or the "high town," applies well to this place in contradistinction to *Oakham*, which lies comparatively low; for the high road rises with a gradual ascent from the latter until it reaches *Manton*, which is supposed to be the highest ground in the

the county, and thence continues, nearly on a level, on to *Uppingham*, from whence there is a rapid descent towards that valley which separates this country from Leicester and Northamptonshires.

The last continuator of Camden, (Mr. Gough,) observes, that Uppingham is principally, but not only, one street, which, though it cannot be called an elegant one, is not despicable. The church, he adds, is a decent building, though not nicely fitted up.

We shall not accuse others of an unwillingness to give praise, even due praise, to Uppingham, but shall proceed to notice, that although it is not a place of very high antiquity, not being recorded in the Norman Survey, yet it has in later times been of some consequence, having at least given birth to *one Proverb*, which is something about an "Uppingham Trencher." *Grose*, in his "Provincial Glossary," says this town was probably famous for the art of Trencher-making, and that here by a statute of Henry VIII. the standard was appointed to be kept for the weights and measures of the county, which might induce turners and other makers of measures to settle here. There is some ingenuity in this conjecture, but an error in its chronology; for the regulation respecting weights and measures is something of an older date, as Leland, copying from an old roll, says, "Anno 11, Henry VII. The Towne of Uppingham is to have custody of weigttes and measures, for Roytl. shire."

The *Church*, if not a very elegant structure, is yet in the ancient Gothic style, with a lofty spire, surrounded by a very neat and clean church-yard, from the southern face of which there is a very extensive prospect. It also contains some very handsome monumental memorials, particularly one in honour of Everard Fawkener, Esq. of the date of 1653. He had been High Sheriff of the county, died at the venerable age of seventy-five, and appears to have been a highly estimable character, if any credit is to be given to some curious Latin verses on his tomb. These describe him as descended from virtuous parents, as a lover of goodness and piety, as joining together the two

professions of lawyer and soldier, and being excellent in each; they also record that he was a great benefactor to the town, having paved the streets at his own expense; he was charitable to the poor; and, much to his credit, an encourager of poor young men, whose genius required and deserved the fostering hand of patronage.

The living is a rectory, and, before the Dissolution, was in the gift of the Abbot of Westminster; but Edward VI. granted it to Dr. Nicholas Ridley, then Bishop of London, and to his successors. We find it recorded, amongst other incumbents, that the learned and most excellent divine, Dr. Jeremiah Taylor, whose piety and valuable literary works will carry his name to latest posterity, was rector of the parish at the commencement of the unhappy civil wars, having been chaplain to Archbishop Laud who procured for him the living, but from which he was soon afterwards sequestered, being marked as a champion both for the Royal cause, and for the church. King Charles then appointed him his chaplain, and he accompanied his Royal master through much of the subsequent warfare; but when Charles's cause began to droop, and he himself was a prisoner, the faithful follower was obliged to secrete himself in Wales, and to keep a school there for the support of himself and family. The Earl of Carbury, having discovered him, became his patron, and he soon after ventured to the metropolis; but the machinations of his enemies put him in such danger, that he found himself under the necessity of retiring to Ireland, when the Lord Conway gave him an appointment at Portmore, on the banks of Lough Neagh, where he remained until the Restoration, and was then promoted to the Bishopric of Down and Connor.

At one end of the church-yard is the *Freeschool*, founded on a very extensive plan, for general education, and even for the preparing of youth for the Universities. This was built about the year 1684, by the Rev. Robert Johnson, Archdeacon of Leicester, and Rector of Luffenham, in this neighbourhood, who was also the founder of that at Oakham. The expenses of the erection were

 paid

paid partly from his own purse, from benefactions, and from the produce of concealed church lands which he begged from Queen Elizabeth.

This school boasts of being the place of education of Henry Ferne, D. D. the eighth son of Sir John Ferne, Knt. He was distinguished much as a preacher in the cause of Charles I. and is well known as the author of many tracts, both in politics, and in favour of Protestants against Popery *.

The edifice itself is plain and neat, and has over the door, in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin, the well known scriptural adage of "Remember thy Creator in the days of thy youth."

Here is also an *Hospital* built at the same time, and out of the same funds as the freeschool, by the benevolent archdeacon. It is for the maintenance of thirteen poor men, and one woman; six of which number are to be natives, or inhabitants of the town. Their stipend is three pounds a piece per annum. The endowments are out of the concealed lands; and both this, and the hospital at Oakham, are under the same direction and management.

There is here a weekly *Market* on Wednesday, which is as old as the ninth year of Edward I. (1280) that monarch having granted and conferred to Peter de Montfort, then lord of the manor, and his heirs for ever, that they should have one market at their manor of Uppingham, and also one fair yearly for three days, on the eve, day, and morrow, of the Blessed Virgin St. Margaret, then falling on the 20th of July, but with the proviso that it should not be to the detriment of any fair of older date in the vicinity.

At present there are *two Fairs* in the year; on the 7th of March, and 7th of July, for horses, cattle, sheep, coarse linen, homespun cloth, &c.

The resident *Population* of this town in 1801, were 1393, occupying 277 houses, of whom 674 were males, and 719 females; 281 being employed in trade and manufactures.

* Wood's Athenæ.

In 1803, the total *Rates* were 987l. 17s. 2d. (though in 1776, they had only been 261l. 19s. 2d.) at 6s. 9d. in the pound.

The out expenditure on the *Poor* was 372l. 4s. 8½d.; and the expenditure in the work-house amounted to 375l. 1s. The law-expenses were 56l. 18s. 6d.; and 221l. 7s. 10d. were expended for the repair of the church, roads, &c.

It appears that no money had been laid out in that year for the purchase of materials for industry in the work-house, and yet the earnings were valued at 52l.

The numbers relieved were 24 out, 37 in, besides 36 children; and it appears that there were three *Friendly Societies*, containing 130 members.

In short, we may say that the general appearance of the town is much in its favour. There is a great appearance of comfort, and even opulence, in many of the houses, and the people seem gay and active: here too are annual *Races*, a short distance south of the town, at a place called the *Brand*.

The botanist may find amusement in the low meadows near this town, where he will pick up the *Cynosorchis*, or male Satyrion; also the Urtica pileatifera, or Roman nettle, which grows plentifully in the shady ditches.

With respect to the *History* of Uppingham, we have already mentioned that it is not recorded in Domesday-book, nor is there any particular notice of it until the 50th year of Henry III. (1265) when Peter de Montfort, one of the rebellious barons slain at the battle of Evesham, gave it to William de Montfort, his second son. This William dying without issue, this manor returned to Peter his elder brother, whose grandson Guy de Montfort having married one of the daughters of Thomas Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, in the reign of Edward III. it with the rest of the Montfort estate was settled in-tail upon the said Guy, and the remainder to the Earl of Warwick and his heirs.

This statement we find corroborated by several historians; yet it is a curious fact, in the Manorial History of this place, that it

it actually was the property of the Beauchamps at an earlier period than is recorded by the county historians; for on an examination of the "Calendarium Inquisitionum Post Mortem," Vol. I. p. 276, it appears, that in the time of Edward II. this manor, with almost the whole of the southern part of the county, belonged in one fee to Guy de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick.

The county historians proceed to record that Guy de Montfort died soon after the 22d of Edward III. without heirs; whereupon this manor, and his other estates, came to the Beauchamps, after the death of his father, Sir Peter de Montfort, who had survived him. The Earl of Warwick then settled the reversion of this manor on his eldest son, Thomas, who inherited and enjoyed it for a considerable time. He is well known in baronial history as a nobleman of great eminence, both as a soldier and a statesman, in that and the following reigns; but at length he happened to fall under the suspicion and displeasure of Richard II. by whose order he was arrested at a feast to which he had been invited; and being accused and found guilty of treason, his estates were forfeited, and himself banished for life; when this manor was granted to Thomas Mowbray, Earl of Nottingham and Duke of Norfolk, then a great favourite of the monarch's, and the same as is introduced by Shakespeare in his tragedy of Richard II. in allusion to his quarrel with Bolingbroke; after which, and in the very same year in which he had obtained possession of this manor, he was also banished for life, and died at Venice.

After his death this manor, along with the other lands, was restored to the true heir, Anne, daughter of Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, and wife of the gallant Nevill, Earl of Warwick, called the "Kingmaker" from his changing sides in the wars of York and Lancaster, when victory generally followed his arms, and placed that claimant on the throne whose cause he had espoused.

The distresses of this lady, after her husband's death, we have already noticed; it is only, therefore, necessary to mention, that when this and the other manors came to the Crown, Edward VI.

granted

granted Uppingham to his sister, Elizabeth, afterwards queen; but she, after coming to the crown, gave it to the Cecil family, from whom it was carried to the Greys, Earls of Stamford, as a marriage portion; and from them it went to the Fawkeners, &c.

Beaumont Chace is a portion of the hundred which lies to the southward of Uppingham. It consists of 695 acres, has been lately inclosed, and allotted to the parishes of Uppingham, Lyddington, and Wardley, the two latter of which are in different hundreds. This is a very romantic part of the county, being high ground, but much diversified with hill and dale. From the highest part of the chace the view is delightful; below it is the valley in which runs the river Eye, separating it from Leicestershire, beautifully tufted with planting, and interspersed with woods at intervals. Some parts of the chace are ancient inclosure, and the scenes there are peculiarly interesting: the views into Leicestershire, too, are very fine; that part of it within sight being now all inclosed, with many hedge-rows, much planting, and an extended scene of population, opulence, and comfort.

Wing, or *Wenge*, is a pretty extensive village, about three miles north-east from Uppingham; and though not mentioned in Domesday-book, is known to have been the manorial estate of the family of Montfort, whose ancestor, Hugh de Montfort, accompanied the Norman Conqueror, and appears to have been a man of great eminence and consideration in the administration of public affairs at that time, having been appointed a coadjutor with William Fitz-Osberne, and Odo, Bishop of Bayeux, for the distribution and execution of public justice throughout all England.

He lost his life in a single combat with Walchelin de Ferrars, but his posterity enjoyed this manor; and his grandson, Robert de Montfort, in the reign of Henry II. was persuaded by the monks of Thorney Abbey in Cambridgeshire, to give them a moiety of the church in this parish. He was succeeded by his brother, *Thurstan*, who, not being so priest-ridden, withheld his brother's

brother's grant, and actually dispossessed these lazy gentry of their share of the church. To a demand of restitution he gave a flat denial, and not only refused to pay the abbot a sum of money said to have been due by his brother, but also to pay the legacy which he had bequeathed to that abbey. A complaint was made to King Stephen, who, finding him both powerful and obstinate, was at length obliged to commission the Earl of Warwick and the Bishop of Lincoln to force him to a compliance with his order: On this he submitted, and granted a new and special charter, conferring upon the monks of Thorney a moiety of the church and mill, out of which he excepted the fees of Thurstan, his Esquire, and Ralph Fitz-Nigel, and to this he added half of the town itself, for which these holy men gave him a mark of gold, and became sureties for the health of his own soul, "as also of the souls of his wife, sons, brother, and all his ancestors."

Having once got their fingers into this manor, the monks could not be easy until, "for the honour of God," they laid both hands upon the whole of it; for we find, that soon after, they got three bovates of land from Ralph Fitz-Nigel, and one yardland from Hugh Grantmeisnel: and shortly afterwards John de Stuteville, who appears to have been in possession of the other half of the town of Wenge, gave it (in like manner as De Montfort had given it,) "to God and the church of Thorney," with all the appurtenances lawfully belonging to the same, with the whole church there, to be held in free alms, for the health of his own, wife's, brethren, ancestors', and successor's, souls, and of all the faithful servants of God departed, and for the fraternity of the place! This was such an excellent bargain on both sides, that the monks were anxious to have it made fast and sure; accordingly we find that the grant and confirmation were signed and sealed in 1151, when Gislebert was abbot; and also that all these gifts and lands, both here and elsewhere, at that time belonging to the abbey of Thorney, and which hereafter, by *lawful* means, might be acquired, were confirmed anew to the abbot and convent in 1162, by the bull of Pope Alexander III.

The

The manor seems to have been in the occupancy of three distinct parties in the reign of Edward II. the Abbot of Thorney, the Prior of St. Neots, and Peter de Montfort; but it may be that the abbot was the paramount lord, as some of his successors actually granted a lease of the whole manor to the family of Lacy for a term of ninety-one years, at a rent of ten pounds per annum, and it was in that occupancy when it was seized by the Crown at the dissolution.

The village stands on a hill, and has a very good appearance at a distance; but there is nothing within it particularly worthy of notice. We come now to

WRANGDYKE HUNDRED,

the last in order in our division of the county. It is bounded on the west by Martinsley, on the north by East Hundred, and on the south by Northamptonshire; containing 15,178 acres, and being divided into the parishes of Barrowden, Bisbbrooke, Caldecot, Drystoke or Stokedry, Glaiston, Lyddington, Morcot, North Luffenham, Pilton, Seaton, South Luffenham, Thorpe, and Tixover.

Its population has been estimated at 3297, of whom 1607 were males, and 1690 females, including 993 employed in agriculture, and 563 in trade and manufactures. The inhabited houses amounted to 666; uninhabited to 19; and the number of families was 734.

DRYSTOKE is the first place we enter in the route from Uppingham. A ramble through this portion of the county is extremely pleasing. After passing the race-ground at Uppingham, the tourist will rise into a hilly country; on his left he will see a fine vale, watered by the river Welland, which here separates Rutland from Northamptonshire, a small strip of Leicestershire intervening. Most of the land is inclosed, but there are very few hedge-rows; yet still the prospect is rich, particularly to the left towards Lyddington, whose large village and church, with its handsome tower and spire, appear to great advantage in the

the bottom. Beyond this is Seaton on a hill, with Morcot and Barrowden; *Preston* and *Bechills*, too, present a singular appearance, being two circular hills, unconnected with the northern chain, and starting from the broad bosom of the valley, as if thrown up by artificial means, and might actually be supposed the work of man, were it not for their great size. A short distance further opens the vale in which Caldecot is situated; and the view of Leicester and Northamptonshires becomes fine in the extreme, the opposite hills being thickly studded with villas, villages, groves, and farms :—but to return to Drystoke, or Stokedry, as it is sometimes called, and which is supposed by Mr. Wright to have had its adjunct of dry from its situation on the side of a hill, or the *Village without Water*. Camden, in speaking of it, says, it is never to be forgotten, as being the ancient residence of the famous and ancient family of the Digbys; but branded with everlasting infamy by Everard Digby, who wickedly conspired, with other execrable incendiaries, to destroy his king and country at one blow of hellish thunder.

Its name, however, is of earlier antiquity than the time of the Digbys; for in the reign of Edward II: the manor was the property of Roger de Morewood, whose posterity held it for many generations, several of whom have represented the county as late as Richard II.* The various county histories are silent as to the possessors from that time to the Digbys; but Mr. Wright seems very justly to think that the political errors of the father were atoned for by the virtues of the son, for he observes, that of latter time this place had been the habitation of a right ancient race of the Digbys; which family, though formerly blemished by Sir Everard Digby, drawn in to the powder treason, yet still he thinks it has since been rendered famous to the Christian world, by the singularly learned Sir Kenelm Digby, eldest son of

* By a reference to the Calendarium Inquisitionum Post Mortem, Vol. I. p. 180, we find that previous to the Morewoods, and in the reign of Edward I. Thomas Nevill held Stokedry, together with fifteen acres of wood in Uppingham, and half of Lyddington. This has escaped the county historians.

of Sir Everard. He then adds, that this lordship, notwithstanding the attainder of Sir Everard for that treason, still remained in his posterity, he having, long before the treason was committed, conveyed this and many other manors, to the use of himself for life, and after to the use of his son and heir apparent in tail, with different remainders over to his other children: so that when afterwards he was attainted and executed, still he being only tenant *for life*, his estate remained to Sir Kenelm, his son, who being at that time under age, a point in law arose, "whether the king should have the wardship of the body and lands of the said Kenelm, or any part of the same?"—they being held of the Crown *in capite*. On this occasion, much to the credit of the judges, who were superior to court influence, or the frowns or smiles of favourites, it was decreed by the two chief justices, and the chief baron, as well as the whole court of wards, that the crown could not have the wardship, but only when there was an heir-general or special; whilst, in this case, there was not, the blood being corrupted, and the said Kenelm having no inheritable blood in him from his father; neither was he special heir in tail by form of the statute of Westminster, but came to the estate *as a mere purchaser;* and for the same reason, had he been of age, the crown could not have had the *Premier Seisin*. On such *nice* points and distinctions did this case turn, that we have thus given it in full as a matter of curiosity; and to this we have only to add that Mr. Gough says, that Sir Everard was one of the handsomest men, and the finest gentleman, of his time, drawn into the powder plot by the priests; and that his son, Sir Kenelm, from whom is descended the present noble Digby family, was an extraordinary character for learned speculation.

At present the village consists of a few poor cottages; but there are some remains of the ancient *mansion-house* standing close to the church. This small fragment of the hall is only one story high, apparently of the age of Edward IV. and having still some of the ancient garden walls surrounding it, but now converted into a farm-house.

The

The *Church*, though small, is very ancient Gothic, but rude, and having an antique porch covered with ivy. The interior is in very bad condition, but still interesting, from the monuments which it contains. In the nave, and adjoining to the south wall, there is a table monument of the wife of Everard Digby; the slab is carved with a female figure in the dress of the fifteenth century, surmounted by children praying; but there has never been any brass upon it; there are two shields also, the first, Digby, the second bearing a dolphin crescente parte per bend sinister counterchanged, but no marks for the blazon. The inscription round the ledge in black letter, is, "Hic jacet Jaqueta Digbi, quondam uxor Everardi Digbi armigeri quæ quidem obiit vicesimo nono die mensis Junii, Anno Domini M.° CCCCLXXXXVI. cujus animæ propitietur Deus. Amen."

In the chancel, on the left of the altar, but on the right of the spectator, there is another table monument of alabaster, with two figures lying on their backs in the usual precatory sepulchral position, the man is in armour, and the lady in the dress of her time, with a monstrous ruff. The tomb has on its sides two sons, seven daughters, and two infants in swaddling clothes. At one end are impaled the arms of Digby and Cope; and the inscription is, "Here lyeth the bodyes of Kenelm Digby, Esq. which Kenelm deceased the 20th of April, 1590, and of Anne, his wife, which Anne deceased the . . . . . ." In a chapel on the south-side of the chancel, which has over the door the initials K. D. and the date 1574, there is an ancient table-monument of free-stone, joining the former one through a vacancy in the wall, and having over it a curious chimney like Gothic window: on this there lies a knight in armour; the arms of Digby are repeated on this tomb; and in the centre of one side is Digby impaled with a cross—the inscription says, "Hic jacet Everardius Digbi, miles qui obiit undecimo die Aprilis Anno Domini MCCCCXL; cujus animæ propitietur Deus. Amen." In this chapel there was also, at the beginning of the last century, an alabaster gravestone to the memory of Richard Digby, and Anne, his wife; but

no

no traces of it can now be seen; nor is it likely that the others will long remain, as the editor of these sheets found the tomb in the chancel a repository for mats and lumber, whilst the chapel seemed turned into a coal-cellar, and had also a quantity of brick-bats and mortar lying in it. In short, the whole appearance of the church was highly discreditable to those concerned, and would no doubt be greatly mortifying to the noble descendant of these ancient worthies, if he should visit the monuments of his ancestors.

LYDDINGTON has formerly been a place of considerable consequence, though now a mere village; for it is recorded that it was an ancienter market than Uppingham, and complained of the setting one up there; but Uppingham being better situated, prevailed, and there has been no market at Lyddington for time out of mind.

Some old authors have said that here was once a castle; but after an accurate examination we could find no traces of any ancient edifice, except the Hospital which is adjoining to the churchyard; and, as Leland says, "was an auncient manor-place of the Bishop of Lincoln."

It appears to have been church property from a very early date; for in the Norman Survey, it is recorded that *Walter* held of the Bishop of Lincoln two hides in Ledentone, to which manor, Stoke, Snelston,* and Caldecote, then belonged. It appears, too, that there were sixteen carucates of arable land; in demesne six carucates, with four servants, twenty-six villeins, and twenty-four bordarii, possessing nine carucates. There were also two mills of eight shillings, and twenty-eight acres of meadow, together with a wood three furlongs in length, and two in breadth; all of them valued at eight pounds.

Great part of the manor was, however, still reserved by its ecclesiastical lords, who established a palace here, the hall of which,

* "Snelston ruins" are still marked in the maps; but no such ruins are now in existence, though the name still remains, attached to some fields near Drystoke.

which, together with a large chamber, forms part of the present hospital, and these said to have been part of the Bishop's own apartments: some of the painted glass still remains, with the inscriptions of "Dominus Exaltatio mea," and "Delectare in Domino;" also some armorial bearings of the Lord Chancellor Russell, Bishop of Lincoln, in the reign of Edward IV. and Bishop Longland in the time of Henry VIII.

In the reign of Edward III. Henry Burwash, the lord treasurer, seems to have had some lands here, but the tenure is uncertain, though perhaps only episcopal lands as he then filled the Lincoln see: he seems, however, to have been a sporting bishop, for he had a grant of free warren, and also power to inflict a penalty of ten pounds on any one who should hunt there without his leave.

With the Bishops of Lincoln this manor remained until Bishop Holbech gave it up to Edward VI. being then valued at the yearly rent of 69l. 14s. 9d. when the youthful monarch granted it to Gregory Lord Cromwell, and Elizabeth, his wife, for their joint lives, or "as long as it should please the king." Edward afterwards gave the reversion to William Cecil, afterwards Lord Burleigh; he was father of Thomas, created Lord Burleigh by James I. who, in 1602, converted part of the ancient palace into an *Hospital*, for a warden, twelve poor men, and two women, and gave it the name of "Jesus Hospital." This edifice stands on the north side of the church; and, having a cloyster remaining, still presents a venerable appearance. The hall is extremely antique, and in it lies a large folio Bible, with an inscription, in which it is called "Lyddington Hospital Bible." It was given by John Clare, Esq. steward to the Earls of Exeter, and has a MS. prayer inside, which is always read by the warden along with the rest of the church service.*

There is also another charitable foundation here, a *Free School* for five boys, of which the master's salary is 6l. 14s. 8d.; and a

 property

* A good view of the hospital may be seen in the Gent. Mag. for 1796."

property of 300l. left in land by a lady some years ago, is now very much improved in value.

The *Church* has a handsome tower and spire, and is dedicated to St. Andrew. In the interior the body rests on five Gothic arches, with clustered columns, and it has five square windows of an antique form. The only marble monuments, or memorials of any antiquity, are one near the chancel for Robert Hardy, Gent. in the fifteenth century; and another for an ancestor of the late Marquis of Rockingham in 1530, who is stated, in his inscription, to have been "Scribam et Electum ad Officium Cancarum," by the bishops of Lincoln. There are also some brasses on the floor. One of these is a woman in a veil head-dress, with a thin meagre visage, mitten sleeves, a belt and cordon; not a nun, as some have supposed, but evidently a widow who had taken the vow of chastity, which was not uncommon with the ladies in these days, particularly when there was little chance of their being tempted to break it. Another has two figures, of a man in long hair, with a fur gown and long loose sleeves furred at the ends, and a woman in the veil head-dress like the former, with a fallen cope and furred cuffs, &c. to the gown; altogether presenting curious specimens of antique costume. The impropriate tythes form one of the prebends of Lincoln Cathedral.

Caldecot is a small village in the bottom, seated on the banks of the river Eye, which coming from the north-west, falls into the Welland a little below. A small rural bridge of one arch joins Rutland and Leicestershires.

The houses are mostly cottages built of a yellowish red stone, which gives it a gloomy appearance; yet it has some little appearance of life and bustle, more than would be expected from its outward view. Ever since the Norman Survey it has been a part of, or dependent on, the manor of Lyddington. In the reign of Edward VI. it appears that some lands in this town were part and parcel of the dissolved monastery of *Pipewell* in Northamptonshire; this being stated in the Rolls preserved in the Augmentation

mentation Office. Some centuries ago there was a family of considerable consequence in the county, who seem to have taken their name from this place; and in the reign of Henry VIII. John de Caldecot was twice high-sheriff; and William, perhaps his son, served the same office twice in the reign of Elizabeth. The church is only a chapelry to Lyddington; and the vicar of that parish has all the small tythes, except two marks, which are to be paid yearly to the Bishop of Lincoln. It stands nearly on the banks of the river, at the south-east extremity of the village, and presents a handsome appearance at a distance, but has nothing very particular to engage attention and examination. It is dedicated to St. John, and consists of a nave and chancel in a plain style of the later Gothic, the nave having two pointed arches resting on octagonal pillars; and in the roof is marked the date of 1648. On the north wall, at the end of the gallery, there was an ancient painting of Adam and Eve standing under the Tree of Knowledge, with the Serpent, and the other usual attributes of that unfortunate event; but it is now almost entirely effaced. The tower is very slender, and is embattled; and the spire, which originally measured thirty-four yards in height, was shattered by lightning in 1798, but has since been rebuilt with *Weldon* stone, an inferior kind of freestone.

To the north-east of this, in the valley, lie the *Preston* and *Bee* Hills, already mentioned. These are quite detached from the others, and not sufficiently conical to claim a volcanic origin; yet it is difficult to imagine that they can have been formed on the principles of the Neptunian theory. In fact, they present a very curious subject of enquiry to the geological observer.

We next come to THORPE, a small village on the banks of the Welland, and in the parish of *Seaton* at present; though at the time of the Norman Survey considered as part of the manor of Barrowdon, or "Berchedune," as it was then called. It was then crown land, and the king had here one hide and one yardland, also four carucates of arable, and three acres of meadow. From that period until the reign of Edward II. we find no mention of

 it;

it; but it then belonged to the Lords of Seaton, who at that time were John de Beaufoe, John, the son and heir of Nicholas de Seaton, and William de St. Liz, which perhaps may account for its becoming part of that parish.

SEATON was also considered at the Norman Survey as part of Barrowdon manor; and the king, the manorial lord, then held here one hide of land and a half, together with a bovate of land, six carucates of arable, and two acres of meadow; he also had a mill worth three shillings per annum, a wood, and what in the Survey is called "Spinetum," supposed to be a tract overrun with brambles. In that Survey, it is called "Segentone;" and it further appears, that here were lands the property of Robert de Todenei, consisting of one hide, and one bovate of land, four carucates of arable, two of which he held in demesne; and there were two servants, four villeins, and two cottagers, with one priest, all of whom only possessed one carucate and a half. Besides these parcels of land, there were three acres of meadow, together with a wood of forty perches in length, and of the same breadth. Of this arable and wood land, however, Robert de Todenei held only one third; but to this estate there belonged in Barrowdon one yard land, and four villeins with half a carucate, which had been worth forty shillings, but at the time of the Survey was valued only at twenty, but *why* we know not. Yet this very Robert de Todenei, whose fortune, in this place at least, seems so inconsiderable, actually built, or at least repaired and refounded, Belvoir Castle, and made it his principal mansion, the present noble owner being lineally descended from him. As there are some other facts connected with this parish, illustrative of ancient times and manners, we shall notice that Alice de Bellafago, (or Beaufoe,) who appears to have been the relict of Thomas Beaufoe, held lands here as early as the thirty-first of Henry II. which were then valued at eight marks of annual rent, and on which she had the following stock, consisting of two ploughs, one hundred sheep, two beasts, five sows, one boar, and four cows: for the farm of her land she received the first year

of her widowhood thirty-six shillings rent, *and two pounds of pepper;* she was said to be at the king's disposal, had a daughter her sole heiress, only two years old, and no doubt was a warm bouncing widow! A considerable part of the lands of Seaton must have belonged to this family; for in the reign of Edward II. we find that John de Beaufoe was a joint lord of the manor with William de St. Liz, and John, son and heir of Nicholas de Seyton.

This is a rectory; and the family of Beaufoe seem to have furnished it with several rectors, one of whom is stated to have been removed from his charge on account of his being infected with the leprosy. The *Church* itself is a pleasing Gothic building, but with only one monument of any antiquity, which, indeed, at present, is almost obliterated, and must therefore be described from Mr. Wright's account of it in the beginning of the last century, when it was in better preservation. He states it to be an ancient monument erected in an arch in the south wall of the church, but without any epitaph to be seen, at least in his day; yet he mentions two coats of arms cut in the stone, but uncoloured: these are still in existence: the first is quarterly; first and fourth, two lioncells passant; second, bendy of ten pieces; third, two bars surmounted of a bend. The other coat is a lion passant crowned. We have made some research after the bearers of these coats, but without being able to specify them exactly; and must therefore leave them to future investigators of the heraldic antiquities of the county.

Bishbrooke was originally called "Bittesbrooke," and is stated in the Norman Survey to have had some of its lands held by the king as part of his manor of Barrowden. There is reason to believe that it became church land, being the property of the college of Fotheringhay in Northamptonshire; and in the reign of Edward VI. it was granted by that monarch to Sir Richard Lee, Knt. as part of that college's lands, to be held in knight's service, with a reservation of the annual rent of three shillings and two-pence to the crown in right of the priory

of St. John of Jerusalem, and also of three-pence halfpenny payable to the manor of *Morcot*, which seems thence to have been paramount. Soon after possession, Lee alienated it to Anthony Andrews, Esq. Whilst in the possession of the Andrews family an occurrence took place, which being recorded in various law authorities as a *notable* case, we shall slightly mention.

Anthony Andrews died seized of the manor in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and gave it to his wife for life; after her, to *Anthony*, his second son, charged with ten pounds a year to *Fabian*, his youngest son, if he were alive when the said lands *came to Anthony*, and so to continue as long as Fabian lived. But the lands *never came* to Anthony, for he died before Fabian, though they fell to his heirs, who refused to pay Fabian's annuity, on the ground that the literal interpretation of the will was not, and could not, be fulfilled. In consequence of this, it came before the Court of Wards; and it was there at length decreed, by advice with the two chief justices, Wray and Anderson, "that the land did remain still charged with the same annuity to Fabian, as a rent seck, and that the heirs and assigns of Anthony were bound to pay it during Fabian's life."

BARROWDON is variously spelt in the old authorities, being *Berokdon*, *Berchedone*, *Bergedone*, and *Berwoeden*; and is stated, in the Norman Survey, to have been the king's manor, in which he had four hides all but one yardland, and the arable land, which was estimated at ten carucates. This manor then had nine villeins, and ten tenants in socage, with three cottagers, all of whom occupied six carucates and a half, besides six acres of meadow, and *six acres of thorns*. The manorial jurisdiction is also said to have extended over lands in Luffenham, Glaiston, Bisbrook, Morcot, Thorp, and Seaton.

In the reign of Edward III. this place was of sufficient consequence to have a weekly market on Saturday, and an annual fair for four days at the feast of St. John the Baptist; but these have been long discontinued, and Barrowden can claim no higher title than that of a country village.

Here

Here was formerly a *Chauntry* in the Lady's Chapel of the Church, founded in the reign of Edward II. for one priest to sing mass there *for ever*, and which appears previous to the Dissolution to have paid forty-nine shillings and eightpence clear to the incumbent *.

GLAISTON is a very pleasant cheerful village about two miles from Uppingham, standing on the high road to Stamford. It has passed through the families of Hemington, Wade, Colley, &c. to the Sherards, Earls of Harborough, who built a handsome mansion here, now occupied by Stafford O' Brien, Esq. The house consists of a very handsome centre, in the style of architecture of the middle of the seventeenth century, with two wings, all built of white stone. It is an antique looking edifice; but the garden walls, which are on the opposite side of the road, (for the highway runs close in front) are evidently of a much more ancient date, and the whole presents an appearance of former manorial grandeur.

The *Church* is a plain building, but very neat, with a low tower and spire, placed cathedralways over the centre. It has some monuments of an early date; in particular, one for Walter Colley, and Aquis his wife; he was Lord of the Manor in 1407; also for John de Lindon, a learned graduate of Oxford, and rector of the parish in 1418; and another for Sir John Bramspath, Knt. in 1443; and some neat memorials of a more modern date.

MORCOT is a small village, about two miles beyond Glaiston, consisting of about seventy houses, occupied by nearly 400 inhabitants. Here is an hospital for six poor people, men or women, unmarried, with a stipend of six pounds per annum each; founded, as Mr. Wright records, in the 10th of James I. by a Mr. George Gilson, a Roman Catholic, and supposed to have been a priest, and maintained by lands at Scredington, in Lincolnshire.

The church is an old Gothic edifice, but contains nothing remarkable, except an ancient monument without date, in the south

 wall,

* Willis's History of Mitred Abbies.

wall, with an inscription in old Norman French, "William de Overton gist icy; Dieu de Salme eyt mercy. Amen."

PILTON is marked in most of the maps as a considerable village; but it is a place of no magnitude or consequence, and seems not to have had existence at the Norman Survey, unless it was then a hamlet to some of the neighbouring towns.

NORTH LUFFENHAM is a populous village. The parish is extensive, consisting mostly of open fields, except a few old inclosures, in which the oaks, elms, and ashes, have thriven so well in the hedge-rows, as to offer great temptations to those who will choose to plant in future. This place, with its companion, South Luffenham, seems to have formed but one town, or manor, at the Norman Survey, though they are a mile asunder.

Passing through the Nevills, &c. the manor came to the Harrington family, and being sold by the trustees in order to pay off debts, was purchased by Henry Noel, Esq. second son of the Viscount Campden; who, as Mr. Wright states, resided here during the civil wars; and refusing to deliver up his house, arms, and person, to the Lord Grey of Groby, who demanded them for the Parliament, was forced by fire and batteries to capitulate. And though the articles were, that the rebels should see the fire quenched, that all in the house should have liberty to depart whither they would, and that none but commanders should enter the house; yet, not regarding any obligation, promise, or agreement, they entered the house, as well common soldiers as officers, robbed, plundered, wasted, burned, and destroyed, his goods, accounts, writings, and evidences, ravished his maid servants, entered the adjoining church, and there defaced a goodly monument, erected to his deceased lady; and thus having ransacked all, from the living to the dead, they carried him prisoner to London, where he remained a long time.

Since and before that time, a branch of the Digby family were lords of a part of the manor, and resided here.

The *Church* has in the east window several portions of armorial glass, and some figures of saints which seem to have escaped

caped the ravages of the reforming soldiery at the period above alluded to. On the south side there is a monument for Simon Digby, who was one of the gentlemen pensioners to Henry VIII.

Here also in the chancel, was a brass plate set up in commemoration of the benevolent and reverend Archdeacon Johnson, rector of this parish, and who lies buried here.

We have nothing further to notice of this place, except that, as Gough records, about the year 1775, a workman digging a sawpit in his yard found many human bones buried there; but there is no remembrance or tradition when, or on what account, that spot had been used as a burying-place; but it is even not improbable that this place might have been a field of battle during the early contests of the Britons with the Picts and Scots, who had ravaged the country as far south as the banks of the Welland, before they received a check from the Saxons.

Here is also an ancient mansion, lately inhabited by a branch of the Heathcotes, and which we believe was the mansion of Mr. Noel which suffered so much in the civil wars.

South Luffenham is a small village on the high road from Uppingham to Stamford, and would not require any particular notice, were it not that it is remarkable for a curious historical fact, recorded by Mr. Wright, relative to an ecclesiastical decision on the antiquity of the Spiritual Supremacy of the Crown in this country.

Robert Cawdrey, parson of this rectory in the reign of Elizabeth, was, in her 31st year, 1588, deprived of his benefice before the High Commissioners, not only for preaching against the Common Prayer, but also for refusing to celebrate divine service according to the ritual: after which the validity of the deprivation came to be examined before the Judges of the Common Law, in an action of trespass brought by Cawdrey against one Atton for breaking his close. The plaintiff's counsel urged, that the deprivation was void, not being warranted by a statute in the queen's first year enabling her majesty by Letters Patent under the

the Great Seal to appoint commissioners to exercise, under her, all Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction.

This was certainly acknowledged to be the primary and original right, *by Statute Law;* but the Court over-ruled the objection, and declared that the before mentioned statute was not *an enacting*, but a *declaratory* Law; and that if it had never been made, still the Crown would have been justified in appointing commissioners by the ancient prerogative and law of England; and Sir Edward Coke proved this, by many ancient precedents.

TIXOVER is the last town, or village, in this hundred, and the last in the county, which we have to delineate; and is an hamlet of *Ketton*, though in a different hundred.

In the Norman Survey it is spelled *Tickesoure*, and sometime afterwards *Tykeshovre*. The various historians make no mention of it from that period until the reign of Edward II. when they describe it as being the manor of the Abbot of *Cluny*, an alien priory in Burgundy: but, by a reference to an ancient authority *, we find that as early as the reign of Henry III. it belonged, together with one half of Manton, to that abbey.

"Abb' de Cluniaco tenet villam de Tykeshovre et medietate de Maneton vel xx mrc."

In the reign of Elizabeth, Sir Henry Sidney alienated it to Roger Dale of Colleweston, Esq. from whom it came to Henry Stafford of Blatherwick in Northamptonshire, Esq. a maternal ancestor, we believe, of the present Henry Stafford O' Brien, Esq. now residing at Glaiston.

The village stands very low, and has a curious old church; and the botanical tourist may find much amusement in his search after aquatic plants on the banks of the river Welland, where, in particular, many handsome specimens may be met with of the *nymphæa alba*, or white water lily.

We have thus taken a cursory sketch of this, the smallest county in England: and may now finally observe, that there is not

* Testa de Nevil, page 39.

not any county more capable of improvement in proportion to its size than Rutlandshire; but then it must be observed, that it is entirely agricultural; and it is not to be expected therefore that improvement will be so rapid as where there are numbers, who, in their search after wealth for themselves, must always distribute a portion of the same amongst their neighbours and dependents, as must always be the case in a manufacturing county. But here there is no employment for the mass of the population, beyond the labour of the field; of course all those who cannot find employment, or whose genius prompts them to more active pursuits, emigrate to other districts; for on no other grounds is it possible to account for the well attested fact, that the resident population has not increased within the last ten years, although the climate and mode of life are so healthy, that the births have always exceeded the burials. It may by some indeed be considered as an advantage attending its present state of society, that, with the exception of the great landholders and clergy, there is perhaps a more absolute equality in Rutland than in any other county; that is, that there are none very rich, and none wretchedly poor, as is generally the case in manufacturing districts; but then it must be remembered, that, to counterbalance this advantage, the farmers of Rutland must trust to other markets for a vent for their surplus produce, as a very small proportion of what the land might yield is consumed within the county; and that of course, until this facility of finding a market is actually produced, all attempts at improving the system of a more productive agriculture, must in a great degree prove abortive.

Finally, we beg leave to observe, that the foregoing sheets are founded on a very minute personal survey of the county during the last summer, aided of course by the best helps we could procure, not only from the printed historians, but also from the various manuscript authorities preserved in the British Museum. To Mr. Wright's elaborate History of the County, it will be seen that we are much indebted for the ancient manorial details, and we must also give due praise to that part of Mr. Blore's exten-

sive work which is lately published, describing the East Hundred of the Shire. We had not the good fortune to meet Mr. Blore during our researches; nor have we the pleasure of knowing him personally; yet it would be the height of injustice not to say that we have found his work marked with the strictest exactness in description and in detail, as far as can be judged from our own observations.

We have to regret that the absence of a clerical gentleman from Oakham, during our visit to that part of the county, prevented us from receiving that information, and those hints respecting the History and Antiquities of the County, which we are assured he is well able to bestow; but we must return our sincere thanks to Thomas Barker of Lyndon, Esq. whose hints on several points were of extreme utility, and gave occasion to the examination of several important circumstances, which might otherwise have passed unnoticed.

END OF RUTLANDSHIRE.

ERRATA.

page.	*line.*	
2	2	after "Soil," insert a *comma*.
6	21	in "Shrivalty," insert an *e*.
11	21	in "Abell," dele the final *l*.
26	12	from bottom, for "that," read *to give*.
39	7	for "who, from his gallantry," read *whose gallantry*.
40	3	of the note, for "Gilbetto," read *Gilberto*.
		for "Hundreris," read *Hundredis*.
41	5	for "Ferrers," read *Ferrars*.
53	13	from bottom, for "ana," read *and*.
77	6	for "Brag Cisterton," read *Brig Casterton*.
81	8	for "Cotesmere," read *Cotsmore*.
86	1	for "Six," read *two*.
99	3	from bottom, for "is," read *are*.
104	6	from bottom, for "VIII," read VII.

A LIST

A

LIST

OF THE PRINCIPAL

BOOKS, MAPS, AND VIEWS,

THAT HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED IN

Illustration of the Topography, Antiquities, &c. of the COUNTY OF RUTLAND.

THERE is perhaps no county in England which has profited less from the researches of Antiquaries, or Naturalists, than this. The first Collection ever attempted was by a *Mr. Dodsworth*, whose Papers being in the possession of *Sir Wingfield Bodenham* of Ryhall, the latter gentleman, whilst a prisoner in the Tower of London, during the civil war, availed himself of them, and produced a work which we believe was called "Collections," and still remains in MS. On these Collections, Mr. John Wright, as that accurate antiquary Mr. Gough records, founded his "History and Antiquities of the County of Rutland, collected from Records, ancient MSS. Comments on the place, and other authorities; illustrated with Sculptures, Lond. 1684. Folio."

The Views of this County, of any celebrity, are a three sheet View of Burley House, drawn by Twyman, engraved at Paris, by Blondel, and preserved in St. John's Library at Cambridge; drawings of Tickencote Church, exhibited by Stukeley, to the Antiquarian Society, in 1741; Views of Ketton and Okeham Churches, of Okeham Castle, and of some Monuments, &c. in Wright's History, and a View of Okeham Castle, by Buck, as far back as 1731.

Exton Park has been illustrated by a View, by Smith, engraved by Mason; and by a Plan done by Badeslade and Harris.

The old Maps of the County are Saxton's, Speed's, and Bowen's, and the more recent ones of Smith and Cary; for the accuracy of the latter of which, except in one or two instances, we can testify by actual observation.

But the most recent and elaborate work on this County is "The History and Antiquities of the County of Rutland, compiled from the Works of the most approved Historians, National Records, and other Authentic Documents, Public and Private. By Thomas Blore, of the Society of the Middle Temple, and F. S. A." Folio. Stamford. 1812.

Of this the Second Part of the First Volume has been published, containing the *East Hundred.*

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TO

THE COUNTY OF RUTLANDSHIRE.

* * *. The MARKET TOWNS are printed in Small Capitals; the *Villages* in Italics.

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